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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIII, Issue No. 4

MONDAY JANUARY 7, 2013

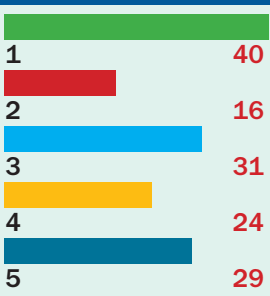
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On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the lowest and 5 the highest, how would you rate your level of optimism for the new year?



Sunday, January 6, 2013

INSIDE

BUSINESS



Several gun shows are canceled after Newtown shooting.

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ASIA



A house caretaker reloads the pistol of a man who goes on a rampage.

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LIFE & STYLE



Turns out Adele ruled 2012, and set a record while she was at it.

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Fitial should personally say that PPA is void. **PAGE 3**
UFO installs new officers. **PAGE 7**

A 'fifth' group of aliens in new immigration bill



House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio performs a mock swearing in for Rep. Gregorio Sablan, D-Northern Mariana Islands, Thursday, Jan. 3, 2013, on Capitol Hill in Washington as the 113th Congress began.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Fresh from his swearing in for a third term in the U.S. House of Representatives, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said that besides continuing to focus on education, healthcare, and natural resources, he will also introduce a “broader” version of H.R. 1466 that will include a “fifth” group of individuals eligible for a CNMI-only resident status. The delegate said the measure could also be drafted to provide a pathway to U.S. citizenship for legal, long-term foreign workers in the CNMI as part of a national immigration reform under Obama’s second term.

» **Territorial delegates denied votes anew**

RELATED NEWS

► Resolution seeks to restore voting rights to delegates.

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Ayuyu’s bid for release denied

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Sen. Juan Ayuyu’s (R-Rota) bid to be released to a third-party custodian while waiting for his trial to start failed to get the approval of the federal court on Friday.

Ayuyu has been indicted on charges of violating the Endangered Species Act and the Lacey Act for his role in possessing and transporting eight federally protected Mariana fruit bats on Oct. 17, 2010.

See **AYUYU’S** on **Page 4**

\$25K bail for 2 men who beat up teen

» **Suspects claim teenager threatened them with rocks**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman on Friday imposed a \$25,000 cash bail each on the two men who allegedly assaulted a teenager who later died after being run over by two cars in central Garapan.

Wiseman appointed attorney Colin Thompson and assistant public defender Benjamin Petersburg as counsel for Herman Selepeo Fitial and Felix Kileleman Jr., respectively.

Preliminary hearing will be on

Jan. 8 at 1:30pm.

Chief prosecutor Peter Prestley said that Fitial, 34, and Kileleman, 19, were arrested on charges of involuntary manslaughter, failure of duty to report wounds or death, and assault and battery.

Police arrested the suspects on Wednesday and Thursday.

The victim, 19-year-old Jefferson Kiauol Keju, was pronounced dead at the Commonwealth Health Center on Jan. 2 at 3:15am. He sustained several deep lacerations on the right side of the head, lacerations

See **TEEN** on **Page 4**



Keju



Court marshals and corrections officers escort defendants Herman Selepeo Fitial and Felix Kileleman Jr. (on a wheelchair) after a bail hearing on Friday afternoon. Fitial and Kileleman were arrested over the beating of 19-year-old Jefferson Kiauol Keju, who later died after two vehicles subsequently struck and ran over him.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

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Local

Hoyer resolution seeks to restore voting rights to delegates and RC

WASHINGTON, D.C.—House Democratic Whip Steny H. Hoyer (D-MD) introduced last week H. Res. 14, which would amend the House rules to allow the delegates of the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, U.S. Virgin Islands, and the resident commissioner of Puerto Rico to vote in the Committee of the Whole House. In the 110th and 111th Congress, Democrats made it possible through the Rules of the House for delegates and the resident commissioner to vote in the Committee of the Whole House without legal controversy, but that privilege was revoked by the Republican rules package for the 112th Congress and again for the 113th Congress.



Hoyer

"It is vital that the voices of the 5 million Americans represented by delegates and the Resident Commissioner in the U.S. House of Representatives are heard in our legislative process," said Hoyer. "By changing the House rules to silence these voices in the 112th Congress and again in this new Congress, House Republicans are doing a disservice to our greatest traditions of political inclusion and common-sense, democratic principles. I strongly urge them to reconsider and to allow the delegates and resident commissioner to vote in the Committee of the Whole House."

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said: "The 5 million Americans in the District of Columbia and the U.S. insular areas live under laws not fully of their making. That is not the ideal of representational democracy our founders envisioned in the Constitution. My colleagues and I asked today to have our vote in the Committee of the Whole restored. Yet, ultimately, we must all set our eyes beyond that limited goal and decide that every United States citizen—no matter where in America they may live—must be fully represented here in the people's House."

Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo, (D-GU) said: "The ability to cast a vote is the most basic of rights in our representative democracy. In the people's House, votes cast by members of Congress make us accountable to our constituents and allow them to understand where we stand on important issues. The Republican rules package adopted by the 113th Congress once again removes voting rights for members from the territories and the District of Columbia and continues to make this body less transparent and less

responsive to the more than four million Americans who live in our districts. Republicans talk about openness and transparency but don't act when they have the chance to prove this to all American people. This symbolic vote would give us parity with other members and strengthen the long-cherished values of this body. I

thank Mr. Hoyer for his continued leadership on all matters of importance to the territories. The territories know of no better advocate for our issues."

Eleanor Holmes Norton, Delegate, District of Columbia, said: "Once again, we are grateful that Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer is stepping forward to lead House Democrats in insisting that our vote on the House floor, which we first won in the 103rd Congress, be returned in the 113th. For Whip Hoyer, as for us, denying a vote in the Committee of the Whole, approved by the federal courts, for the more than 600,000 taxpaying residents of the District of Columbia, who have fought in all the nation's wars, is unthinkable. We are encouraged by Whip Hoyer's resolution to believe that the vote we have exercised in the past will be returned to us in the future."

Eni F. H. Faleomavaega, Delegate, American Samoa: "Americans living in the territories are part of the American family. We fight and die in disproportionate numbers in defense of our nation to ensure liberty and justice for all. In my opinion, above all else, this

qualifies our constituents for full voting representation in the U.S. Congress and I hope that one day this body will do what is right and uphold the principles of equality for Delegates and Resident Commissioners. Today, I thank Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer for making historic steps forward."

Donna M. Christensen, Delegate, U.S. Virgin Islands: "It is ironic that the United States is the leading voice calling for people around the world to have more, not less say in the governance of their countries, while the rules of the House of Representatives disenfranchise the representatives of American citizens living in U.S. Insular Areas and the District of Columbia."

Pedro R. Pierluisi, Resident Commissioner, Puerto Rico: "Permitting the delegates to vote on amendments in the Committee of the Whole required us to take public stands on issues and sent a message of inclusion to our constituents. The revocation of this privilege—for the second consecutive Congress—is deeply discouraging. I represent 3.7 million U.S. citizens, far more than any House member and more than 44 senators. My fellow delegates represent over one million people. Our constituents are part of the American family. They fight—and many have died—in defense of our nation. ...I thank Mr. Hoyer for his longstanding and exceptional efforts to perfect our democracy for all Americans, regardless of whether they reside in the states, the District of Columbia, or the U.S. territories." (PR)

Miah and Evilsizer arrested for allegedly receiving stolen items

The Department of Public Safety's Thief Apprehension Select Coalition arrested over the weekend two men, including Mohammed Jahangir Miah, for allegedly engaging in buying stolen items.

DPS spokesman Jason Tarkong said TASC operatives also searched Triple Star Recycling Center in As Perdido and CGD Pawnshop in Chalan Kanoa where stolen items such as 17 scuba tanks were recovered.

Tarkong said TASC agents followed up on leads that led to Sky Garage in San Jose where they searched the premises and recovered stolen items.

Agents arrested Miah and Gary Lee Evilsizer in San Antonio during the recovery operation.

Tarkong said Miah, 38, was arrested for receiving stolen property, while Evilsizer, 63, for receiving stolen property and illegal possession of a controlled

substance and drug trafficking.

The officer said TASC agents along with members of the CNMI Interagency Financial Crimes, and Drug Enforcement Task Force conducted the joint operation.

Details of the arrest of Miah and Evilsizer will be made available later.

Sources said Miah was arrested for receiving a stolen government video camera, while Evilsizer was arrested for receiving a stolen laptop and computer desktop. He allegedly used cash and marijuana to pay for the stolen goods.

Bail was set at \$31,000 for Evilsizer and \$5,000 for Miah.

"We will continue to aggressively pursue burglary, robbery, theft and arson cases in the CNMI," said acting DPS commissioner Ambrosio Ogunoro, adding that more arrests are forthcoming. (Ferdie de la Torre)

Reyes: Fitial should personally say that PPA is void

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial should personally come out—and not just through his press secretary—that he now agrees with the attorney general's opinion that the \$190.8-million power purchase agreement is void and unenforceable, according to Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (IR-Saipan).

In an interview on Thursday, Reyes said if press secretary Angel Demapan's announcement that Fitial has agreed with Attorney General Joey P. San Nicolas' opinion regarding the power purchase agreement deal is correct, "then that is good for

the Commonwealth."

Reyes said the Delaware-based Saipan Development LLC should be informed that the power purchase agreement is not enforceable because it appears from the company's media release that the deal is closed.

"I guess it's not just me, I guess the population...the public would want to know if it's really void. If it's void then someone has to inform Saipan Development LLC that it's no longer enforceable, that there's no contract," the senator pointed out.

The lawmaker, however, raised two questions: the contract's potential harm to the

CNMI and absence of a request for proposal. He quoted Saipan Development LLC counsel William Fitzgerald, who reportedly asked:

"Where's the harm in entering into the power purchase agreement?"

Reyes said that people are talking about the consequence of the contract and that what people are talking about is now actually reduced to writing by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., that there's great deal of harm if the

information from CUC is true.

"I am not going to question that it's true because they are the experts, the CUC," Reyes said.

The senator was referring to CUC's request urging the Superior Court to deny Saipan Development LLC's motion to vacate the injunction order on the power purchase agreement.

CUC, through counsel Deborah Fisher, argued that if it proceeded based on the power purchase agreement and related escrow and guarantee agreements, this will entail up front costs of approximately \$18 million, which will require an immediate increase in CUC's rates.

Reyes asked: "How can something be right when it requires a request for proposal [but] there is no RFP?"

"Somebody is focusing on what the contract is going to do and how it is going to affect the residents and the consumers in the CNMI. But what about the fact that it's subject to RFP and it was never gone through the RFP? Why isn't there a public hearing on this?" he asked.

In a separate interview, Sen-

ate president Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) said, "The buck stops at the governor's desk."

Manglona said any decision that the governor makes cannot be credited or blamed on the attorney general, especially for a project of this magnitude, committing the CNMI, according to some estimates, by up to \$500 million.

"It's not whether the governor can legally sign off on the contract or whether he is personally liable. I think the issue here is, as a public servant, the people entrusted you all these authority and responsibility to act on their behalf. So you have fiduciary responsibility," Manglona stressed.

The governor, he said, has the responsibility to carry out and protect the people's interest.

"And when you sign off on a contract that in the first place the Legislature clearly intended that a project of this magnitude, especially under the CUC, that there is a public bidding," he said.

Clearly, Manglona said, the Legislature did not remove that provision in the law that requires a public bidding for any project under CUC.

Manglona said one exemption for not having a public bidding is that it absolutely requires a sole-source contract and that the attorney general shall certify the need for it.

Manglona said Fitial knows very well that there is no justification for this sole-source contract.

"I don't know if you can term it certified. But the certification requires that there be factors considered before you sign off a certification such as the economic analysis, economic study for this project. None has been done," he stressed.

Manglona said the power purchase agreement contract was "signed overnight, just like that."

"So you know that the governor made a very critical error to say the least because he knew that to move this project forward there are many issues that needed to be addressed," he added.

'Admin looking for DPS chief candidates'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Fitial administration is looking into possible candidates to fill the position of a permanent commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, according to press secretary Angel Demapan.

Demapan told *Saipan Tribune* Friday that the administration is looking for candidates who are qualified and one that the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations will find acceptable.

High surf advisory extended to Thurs.

The Emergency Management Office has extended its high surf and small craft advisories to 6am Thursday due to continued high surf that poses a danger to mariners and beachgoers.

In a notice yesterday, EMO said that hazardous surf of 10 to 12 feet will continue along east facing reefs of the Marianas through Wednesday night, then gradually subside Thursday.

The high surf advisory remains in effect until 6am Thursday along east facing reefs. The small craft advisory will also remain in effect until 6am Thursday.

"East to northeast winds of 20 to 25 knots and combined seas of 10 to 12 feet will be hazardous to operators of small craft through at least Wednesday night, then should begin to subside Thursday," EMO said.

The public is urged to avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches, especially those along north and east facing reefs as rip currents will be hazardous. Mariners are also advised to take extra precautionary measures when operating boat in these conditions, especially near reef lines and when entering or leaving harbors and inlets. (EMO)



Demapan

Demapan explained that the reason why the governor consistently alternates the Ogumoro brothers as acting DPS commissioner is because as the deputy commissioner and ranking police captain, the Ogumoro brothers are next in the line of succession to take charge of the department in the absence of a commissioner.

Demapan explained the situation about the Ogumoro brothers in response to incom-

ing House vice speaker Frank Dela Cruz's (IR-Saipan) statement that he will include in the new impeachment resolution against Gov. Benigno R. Fitial the latter's failure to appoint a permanent DPS chief.

Dela Cruz said it is neglect of duty on the governor's part not to carry out the mandate of appointing a permanent commissioner. Dela Cruz believes the issue needs to be included as another article in the impeachment resolution.

Fitial's allies in the House subsequently defeated the impeachment bid.



Reyes



Manglona

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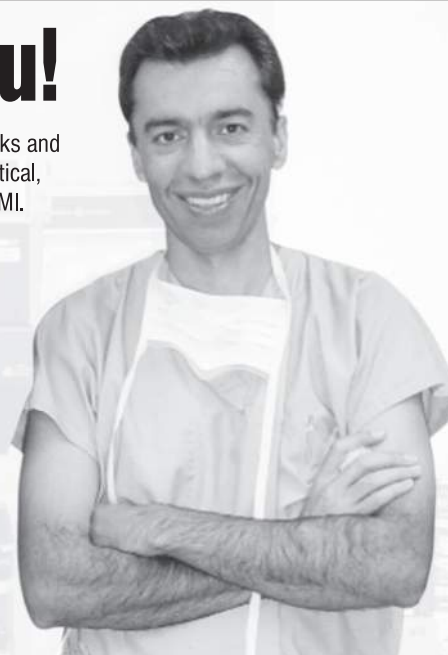
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Tan praises role of OFWs in building local economy

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan stressed the need to continue bringing in from overseas skilled workers who could help build the island economy, saying that the CNMI does not have enough local workers to sustain its workforce.

Tan, at the same time, congratulated Filipino workers in the Commonwealth for their contributions during his inspirational remarks at the installation ceremony for the new officers of the United Filipino Organization Saturday night at the Fiesta Resort & Spa.

He said he witnessed these contributions early on, growing up in Guam where he went to school and became friends with many Filipinos from the

southern island, as well as when he moved to Saipan where his family established several businesses.

According to Tan, the growth of the economy that the community witnessed is a result of the teamwork among locals and Filipinos, Japanese, Koreans, Chinese, and other overseas contract workers on the islands.

"I like to recognize all of you who really contribute to what CNMI is today," he added.

Tan said that the threshold for the number of foreign workers that would be allowed in the Northern Marianas should be increased in order to grow the economy.

This move, he explained, would play a big role as the private sector works on increasing job opportunities in the Commonwealth.

Tan noted that there would be more job opportunities if the islands continue to improve its tourism industry and help bring back more Japanese tourists and even grow the Chinese, Korean, and Russian markets.

He said the additional flights from China and Russia in the last few months have posed a "big problem" in the CNMI, which now lacks hotel rooms—a situation it has not experienced for a while.

Tan said the situation has been compounded by the shutdown of hotel rooms. The CNMI's current room inventory, he said, is less than 3,000 hotel rooms which only allow the islands to accommodate below 500,000 tourists.

"As we continue to bring back our Japanese tourists and grow our other markets, we really need to find a way to reopen those rooms," he emphasized.



Tan

Tan explained that additional hotel rooms not only means increased tourist arrivals but it also equates to more job opportunities, which will have a multiplier effect as it translates to higher spending power for the public.

"This is what the local community needs right now: jobs for everyone," he said.

Once the economy improves, Tan said the CNMI can then attract more investors and would even encourage

existing establishments to expand businesses and hire more staff.

"It's going to be the start of our economic recovery," said Tan.

Tan, a board member of the Marianas Visitors Authority, also cited the need for a strong partnership between the private sector and the government as both entities work on obtaining more opportunities for the Commonwealth.

"We could be looking at a bright 2013, even onward," he added.

Tan congratulated UFO for its accomplishments and for being active in the local community. He congratulated outgoing president Bong Malasarte and assured new president Annamae Adaza of his continued support to the umbrella organization.

"I just want to recognize your contribution to the growth of the economy in the Commonwealth. Moving forward, I believe that all of you still have a very important role to play," he said.

AYUYU'S

From Page 1

In a three-page order issued Jan. 4, U.S. District Court chief judge Ramona V. Manglona said the court does not believe that releasing Ayuyu would

reasonably assure the safety of witnesses given the nature of the charges, evidence of recent harassment of a party in a different case, and reason to suspect drug abuse.

Ayuyu wants to be released to Michael Borja as his third-party custodian.

This was opposed by the U.S. govern-

ment. U.S. attorney Alicia A.G. Limtiaco said that permitting a defendant to remain in the custody of a designated person pending trial is a court-imposed condition of release and the court, she said, has already determined by clear and convincing evidence that no combination of conditions will reasonably assure that

Ayuyu will strictly obey the court's stay-away orders and refrain from interfering with potential witnesses.

Limtiaco said Ayuyu has already made threatening statements to a party's counsel while on pretrial release and that he had been using methamphetamine or ice.

Manglona recently ordered the continued detention of Ayuyu pending his trial on new charges of obstruction of justice, tampering with witnesses, and attempting to destroy evidence related to his first case—attempting to smuggle endangered fruit bats from Rota to Saipan.

TEEN

From Page 1

on his lower lip, and bruises on the face. He had a fractured femur and pelvis and had internal bleeding.

The incident happened on Tuesday night, Jan. 1, in front of LJ Market.

Police detective Melissa Bauleong stated in her report that an autopsy conducted by Dr. Aurelio Espinola showed that Keju died of massive internal injuries, trauma to his chest, and abdomen, and fractured pelvic bone.

Bauleong said Espinola claimed that the injuries were consistent with that of a person being run over or dragged by a vehicle.

Bauleong said that, on Jan. 2, police detectives canvassing Garapan obtained video surveillance footage from

the New Chang Ming Store located southwest of the Mobil gas station.

A review of the footage revealed that Keju had entered the store around 11:30pm. He then appeared to have an argument with two men, later identified as Fitial and Kileleman.

The argument continued in the parking lot of the store and eventually toward the southern parking lot of the Mobil gas station. Keju and the two suspects later disappear from the view of the surveillance camera.

Bauleong said that, on the same night of Jan. 2, detectives proceeded to an apartment in Chaluau Laulau where they showed Fitial a portion of the surveillance camera's footage.

Bauleong said that Fitial admitted it was him and his nephew Kileleman in the footage and that they had argument with a Chuukese (Keju).

According to Fitial, they went to New Chang Ming Store to buy cigarettes and they met the Chuukese, who was allegedly causing problems with the storeowner. The Chuukese allegedly wanted to buy beer, but the owner refused because it was already late at night.

Fitial told police that the Chuukese began arguing with him and Kileleman. As a result, he and Kileleman chased the teenager into the highway.

Fitial claimed he was chasing after Kileleman to stop him from beating up Keju. While Kileleman was punching Keju, Fitial saw a van that struck and ran over the two.

Fitial told police that the van did not stop, but sped north.

Fitial then helped Kileleman get up and called a person by the gas station to call the police.

Fitial told Kileleman to stay because

police were on their way, but that his nephew began walking toward their home in China Town.

Fitial said he followed Kileleman to assist him, leaving Keju lying on the highway.

Fitial also told police that during their argument, Keju picked up two rocks and threatened to kill him and Kileleman.

Bauleong said that, on Jan. 3 at 12:02am, investigators found Kileleman inside one of the rooms of the San Jose Motel. He was with his parents.

Kileleman told investigators that a vehicle ran over him. Police detectives called for an ambulance because of Kileleman's injuries.

At 3am that day, Kileleman was found to have no broken bones or any injury so the doctor released him. An hour later, police arrested Kileleman.

Kileleman also narrated to detectives the circumstances leading to him and Fitial chasing and punching Keju.

Kileleman said he heard Fitial yelling at him to get off the road, but it was too late as a vehicle struck him and Keju.

Kileleman said he heard Keju moaning as he and Fitial walked away and proceeded home.

As of press time, investigators have yet to identify the driver of the van that sped off. The driver is still at large, while the van could not be located.

Police detectives identified Aniceto Ogumoro Jr. as the driver of the second vehicle that ran over Keju. Ogumoro stopped his pickup truck and asked someone to call the police. The driver is the son of Department of Public Safety deputy commissioner Aniceto Ogumoro.

BILL

From Page 1

Sablan was among the 441 members of the U.S. House of Representatives sworn in Thursday in the nation's capital (Friday morning, CNMI time).

"When I raised my right hand and took the oath, I said that with a prayer, asking God to help me, guide me into doing the right thing," Sablan said in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* minutes after his ceremonial swearing in by U.S. House Speaker John A. Boehner (R-Ohio). Boehner had just survived the defection of a handful of Republicans, winning the final vote tally 220 to 192 over House minority leader Nancy Pelosi (D-California).

Sablan's swearing in was also a day after President Obama signed a compromise bill to thwart a fiscal cliff that would have raised taxes for millions of Americans.

Among the 113th House's first official acts were the adoption of the rules that will govern the House during the 113th Congress.

The Republican caucus-drafted rules once again denied delegates from the CNMI, Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the resident

commissioner of Puerto Rico the right to vote in the Committee of the Whole.

Sablan is an independent caucusing with Democrats in Congress.

The delegate's ceremonial swearing in was attended by his wife Andrea and other guests in the nation's capital. Another ceremonial swearing in will be held weeks later on Saipan.

'Broader version of 1466'

Immigration remains a contentious issue at the national level, but the U.S. president himself tagged it among his priorities.

Sablan's new immigration bill in the 113th Congress would include some of those previously not covered in the four groups under HR 1466, including non-resident workers who have been lawfully present in the CNMI for at least five years as of May 2008 and without U.S. citizen children.

The delegate cautioned, though, that the qualifications and justifications for this fifth group are still being worked on and are therefore open to recommendations.

For example, the five-year requirement could be changed to seven or 10 years. The May 2008 reference date could also be changed.

"I am not sure when immigration

is going to be taken here in Congress, whether it's in the first two years of this administration or the next two years. Obviously we need the president's support on any immigration issue and he said he's going to support comprehensive immigration reform. How we approach that will depend on a lot of things," the delegate said.

Also among the first few bills he will be re-introducing is the 3-mile submerged lands bill that he said will be termed "territorial sea" legislation.

'History'

Sablan is the first and so far the only CNMI delegate to the U.S. Congress as a result of a 2008 law that also placed the Commonwealth's immigration under federal control. He was re-elected in 2010 and 2012. Each term consists of two years.

"I am humbled," Sablan said after his ceremonial swearing-in. "I am not here to make history. I ran to make a difference in peoples' lives."

He marks his third term in Congress amid another try to impeach Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, a resurging CNMI tourism industry and less than two years before the end of the transition to federal immigration.

In the Nov. 6, 2012, mid-term elec-

tions in the CNMI, Sablan won by landslide against his Republican opponent, Dr. Ignacia "Acha" Demapan. Sablan got 9,829 votes against Demapan's 2,503—a remarkable 7,326-vote lead.

This vote margin is considered historic as Sablan is the first political candidate who recorded such a high winning total over an opponent. Sablan received 78 percent of the total ballots cast by the Commonwealth Election Commission in the 2012 polls.

Delegates denied vote again

During the Jan. 3 inauguration of the members of the 113th Congress, the Republicans once again denied the territories such as the CNMI the right to vote in the Committee of the Whole.

Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton of Washington, D.C. offered a motion to send the rules back to committee with instructions to determine whether there is any reason to deny the voting right, but the motion failed, 224 – 187.

Sablan's office said when the Democratic Party had the majority in the House, the rules have allowed the resident commissioner and delegates to vote in the Committee of the Whole, which is where bills are debated and amended before final action by the

House of Representatives.

The Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the delegate vote in 1994, after it was first put in place, but since then under a Republican majority, the vote has been denied. Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer has also taken the delegates' side, offering his own amendment, H.Res.14, to allow the delegate vote.

Even if this were to pass, though, there is a larger issue, as Sablan pointed out in his floor statement.

"The 5 million Americans in the District of Columbia and the U.S. insular areas live under laws not fully of their making. That is not the ideal of representational democracy our founders envisioned in the Constitution. My colleagues and I asked today to have our vote in the Committee of the Whole restored. Yet, ultimately, we must all set our eyes beyond that limited goal and decide that every United States citizen—no matter where in America they may live—must be fully represented here in the people's House," Sablan said.

The delegate said he will continue to look for ways to restore the Committee of the Whole vote and—more importantly—to obtain the right to full voting representation in Congress for the people of the CNMI.

Fund: No expiration date on trustee *ad litem* appointment

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund continues to seek a contempt order against the government for ignoring a U.S. District Court order pertaining to the operation of the pension agency.

In a 10-page filing by Fund counsels Braddock Huesman and Daniel J. Berman on Thursday, the Fund indicated its op-

position to the latest filing of the government regarding its stand on the Fund's proposed order to show-cause. Among the government's arguments is its claim that the trustee *ad litem* has no authority to represent the board of trustees.

In its reply, the Fund pointed out that the court order appointing trustee *ad litem* Joseph C. Razzano has no expiration date, contrary to the

government's view that this order is self-terminating.

"[The] CNMI does not accept that the order regarding trustee *ad litem* appointment filed Sept. 14, 2012, is a continuing order until reversed or vacated. [The] CNMI views the order as self-terminating. But the very definition of [trustee *ad litem*] is for the duration of the civil litigation. No expiration date exists on Sept. 14 order appointing

the [trustee *ad litem*] and the CNMI expressly admits that the court refused to craft its order in such a way as to terminate the [trustee *ad litem*] upon appointment of a new board of trustees," states the Fund in its latest filing, adding that the CNMI is bound by the order until it is reversed or vacated.

According to the Fund, the government never feels bound by the order and has refused to pay as ordered by the court, and continuously interferes with the trustee *ad litem* despite an order not to do so.

"Clearly, only the enforcement of the order of contempt of court will bring the CNMI around to an understanding and respect for the orders of the court," states the Fund.

The Fund claims that the government's action to nominate members for the board of

trustees is an attempt to immediately replace and take over the functions of the trustee *ad litem*, which runs afoul of the Sept. 14 injunction.

"Such action strongly suggests an ill-spirited intent to directly, and publicly, undermine the power and integrity of this court by using the powers of the governor and Legislature to conduct an advice and consent hearing on the nominations," added the Fund.

The Fund also countered arguments made by the government about its failure to receive the Fund's notice

of its emails, claiming the emails went to their counsels' spam emails.

"Instead of responding, they reserved all of their comment for their opposition brief filed Dec. 26 wherein the primary arguments of the CNMI are that the order is ambiguous and we will just continue to follow local law. None of these arguments have any merit," said the Fund, adding that besides the email correspondence on Dec. 4 the Fund also sent a formal letter to the government's lawyers on Dec. 10, 2012.

DHS chief opposes bid to modify dismissal of federalization suit

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, a defendant in a recently dismissed federalization lawsuit, opposed Friday the request of the plaintiffs to modify or vacate the court decision, citing a lack of support for the motion.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Justice Ramona V. Manglona had dismissed with prejudice last November the complaint that challenged the implementation of the federalization law, or the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008. It was dismissed because the plaintiffs failed to file an opposition on the motion to dismiss the case filed by Napolitano.

Through her counsels Stuart F. Delery, David J. Kline, and

Theodore W. Atkinson, Napolitano indicated that the plaintiffs' failure to file a memorandum in support of the motion puts her in the position of having to guess which part of Rule 60 supports the plaintiffs' motion to vacate or modify the court order.

Napolitano added that the failure to provide a memorandum of points and authorities provides her with no arguments to which meaningful response may be made. She asked the court to order the plaintiffs to file a memorandum of points of authorities in support of their motion and postpone a hearing on the matter until the plaintiffs have complied and defendants have an opportunity to respond.

Last December, the plaintiffs asked for the voluntary dismissal of the case and requested the U.S. District Court to modify or vacate its earlier

order to reflect their action.

The plaintiffs are composed of 30 some individuals, mostly leaders of nonresident groups in the CNMI.

According to the plaintiffs' counsel, Stephen Woodruff, they have concluded that there is no point in attempting to proceed further with this lawsuit as they do not believe it is the best vehicle at this time to seek remedies for the serious deficiencies in DHS' implementation of federal immigration in the CNMI.

For the plaintiffs, "dismissal with prejudice of the unarticulated claims is a logical impossibility" and runs contrary to the preference of American courts for adjudication on the merits.

The federalization case was filed in 2011 by plaintiffs because of the alleged mess created by DHS by putting CW regulations into effect.

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Jennifer Ross, BC-HIS
Board Certified in Hearing
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Email: ross@guamcell.net

- **Friday, January 11th** 8:30am - 4:00pm
- **Saturday, January 12th** 9:00am - 1:00pm
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Beach Road, Chalan Piao

NMC board chair, Hart to attend ACCJC assembly

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Marianas College president Sharon Hart, Ph.D.,

and Board of Regents chair Juan Lizama will be traveling to California next week to attend the January 2013 meeting of the Accrediting Commission

for Community and Junior Colleges, during which the fate of the college's accreditation status will be decided.

Lizama and Hart will be

providing information about NMC's continuing efforts to meet and exceed accreditation standards, focusing on updates to the college's Institutional Self-Evaluation Report that was submitted last August.

According to Hart, members of the college community had worked in teams to prepare the report and to ensure that its contents accurately reflect the college's progress in meeting accreditation standards and eligibility requirements.

"When I first arrived at the college, there were 11 ACCJC recommendations and concerns that were still unresolved, and we worked hard to reduce that by half in a relatively short amount of time. Our students, staff, and faculty continue to make important progress in

meeting accreditation standards and eligibility requirements, and I look forward to reporting this progress to the commission in January," Hart said.

Hart assured that NMC will continue to engage all stakeholders, including legislative and executive leaders, and members of the community to continue its momentum to accreditation reaffirmation.

NMC was placed on probation status by ACCJC in January 2012. The accredited status of the institution continues during the probation period.

Meantime, Lizama said yesterday that he and other regents will meet today to further discuss and act on the no-confidence vote earlier made by faculty members against Hart.

The board held a two-day

review of all the materials submitted by both the faculty and the president pertaining to the issue.

"For the past two days, the Board of Regents, along with its legal counsel, have been poring over the materials submitted by members of the faculty and the NMC president and we have made significant progress. We anticipate that we will be able to come to a resolution over the weekend and be able to report our findings at [today's] special board meeting," said Lizama in a statement.

"As I've stated, the Board of Regents is committed to openness and transparency. At the same time, we must temper that transparency with the board's need for a rigorous review process that allows for candid, straightforward internal discussions," he added.

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Man dies after assault, hit by 2 cars

Crime Stoppers is seeking help from the public on an assault and battery, auto pedestrian, hit and run fatality incident that occurred on Middle Road, Garapan, across the street from the Mobil gas station.

On Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2013, at about 11:53pm, the victim, a 19-year-old male, was chased by two men who assaulted and beat the victim on Middle Road, Chalan Pale Arnold, on the outer northbound lane by LJ Store, Garapan.

After the two men beat up the victim, they fled the scene running north toward Upper Miha, leaving the victim lying on the highway. Initial witnesses say a late model 2011-2012 Gray Toyota Sienna van struck the victim on the road and dragged him about 50 feet on the highway. The car then fled the scene.

The victim was struck again by a second car, a green 1988 Toyota Hilux pickup truck, which stopped to help the victim. The victim was transported to the Commonwealth Health Care Corp., Emergency Room where he was pronounced dead at 3:15am.

Police investigation led to the arrest of two suspects early Wednesday morning, Jan. 3, 2012. The suspects are Herman Fitial, 34, and Felix Kileleman, 19. New information reveals that the suspected gray van that fled the scene could possibly be a gray or black Astro Van, not a Toyota Sienna Van. The driver and van are still at large.

DPS and Crime Stoppers need your help. Please contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use our website at www.nmicrimestoppers.net Crime stoppers pays up to \$1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. It pays to call. (Crime Stoppers)



CNMI Water Task Force ITB13-GOV-062



Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting Sealed Bids from qualified individuals or firms for the procurement of the supply and delivery of various materials for use in the optimization of the water wellheads on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Bidders must bid on all items. A contract will be awarded to one supplier for all bid items

The procurement specifications and special terms and conditions will be available at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan on or after **January 7, 2013.**

Any questions regarding this Invitation for Bids should be addressed to Mr. Pedro Sasamoto, Program Manager, CNMI Water Task Force at (670) 664-2285, or via facsimile at (670) 664-2279 before **January 18, 2013.**

Sealed Bids must be marked "Supply of Wellhead Materials", ITB13-GOV-062 For bidders within the CNMI, an original and four (4) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan no later than **2:00 p.m., local time, February 5, 2013.** Bidders located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days of receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **2:00 p.m., local time, February 5, 2013** and must be transmitted via facsimile to **(670) 664-1515** or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com For bidders located outside of the CNMI, an original and four (4) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Services or the official government postal service no later than **February 5, 2013** AND must be received by Procurement and Supply no later than **February 14, 2013.**

Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan at 3:00 p.m., local time, February 15, 2013. However, if no notices of Intent to Bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, the bids will be opened at 3:00 p.m., local time, February 5, 2013.

Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may cause for rejection of a bid.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

This project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs. Award of a contract is contingent upon approval from DOI/OIA.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all proposal and to waive any imperfection in a proposal in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All Proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ Benigno R. Fitial
Governor

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

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*Some conditions apply

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UFO installs new officers, takes on added responsibilities

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Newly elected president Maria Annamae G. Adaza of the United Filipino Organization called for unity among her fellow leaders in the Filipino community to effectively accomplish the group's mission, citing their added responsibilities resulting from the closure of the consulate.

"We do have all our differences, different points of view and opinions, different status in life but at the end of the day, we are all the same. So let's just support each other for the betterment of our community," said the former UFO secretary.

Adaza, along with other elected officers of the network of Filipino groups in the CNMI, took their oath during the installation ceremony held Saturday night at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan.

Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) inducted the new officers: Adaza of Visminda, vice president Wilfredo "Boy" Ching of MDX, secretary Mario Mayuga of MAFEA, assistant secretary Anatalia De Guzman of Bayani Association, treasurer Evelyn Deazeta of Bayani Association, Fernando "Bok" Enano of NAMFREL, auditor Florenda Miranda of SIP, public relations officer Saturnino "Jun" Alciso of Bayan Association, and safety officers Renato



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Sen. Jude Hofschneider, not shown in photo, inducts the new officers of the United Filipino Organization during an installation ceremony Saturday night at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan.

Gaviola of Boholano and Donato Galvez of CNMI Power.

Also inducted were the chairpersons of the different committees in charge of UFO events: Bayani Association's Olivia Yana for *Pusong Pinoy*, MDX's Peter Crisostomo for Mt. Tapochao, Triskelion's Tom Jeffrey Tiongson for *Pistang Pinoy*, MAFEA's Randy Jacob, NAMFREL's Bok Enano for *Palarong Pinoy*, and Visminda's Nelida Atalig for *Paskong Pinoy*.

The event was attended by over a hundred representatives of member organizations and dignitaries that included Gov. Benigno and first lady Josie Fitial, Hofschneider, Education Commissioner Rita Sablan and husband Frank, Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan, Department of Community and Cultural Af-

fairs' Melvin Faisao and Mariabel Loste.

In his remarks, Fitial noted how UFO has offered so much to the Filipino community through its fiesta-like events that give Filipino workers on island "a feel of being home."

With the closure of the consulate and the absence of honorary consuls, Fitial said the UFO is now bound to look after the well-being of Filipinos in the Commonwealth.

"As some of you know, Filipinos are very dear to my heart. I do care, *hindi lang po halata* [It's just not obvious]," said Fitial, drawing chuckles from his audience. "Many of you living here consider CNMI your second home and Filipinos will always be welcome to stay, to work, be part of the

productive and abiding citizens of the Marianas."

Outgoing president Bong Malasarte, for his part, congratulated Adaza, saying, "I am very confident that she will lead the UFO with excellence."

The outgoing president also

discussed the achievements during his term, including the donations made to the victims of the 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan, American Red Cross - NMI Chapter, Saipan Simbang Gabi Group, and the Manta Ray Band; and relief efforts for vic-

tims of several typhoons in the Philippines.

UFO also handed out certificates and plaques of appreciation to all outgoing officers, sponsors, and supporters during the event hosted by Paul Madriaga and Minda Castro.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT NO. 13-01 United States District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands

CLERK OF COURT / PART-TIME MAGISTRATE JUDGE

Location: GARAPAN, SAIPAN, MP FULL-TIME, 4-Year Term
Compensated at Judicial Salary Plan JSP-16

OPENING: January 7, 2013 CLOSING DATE: January 25, 2013 at 3:30 pm
Position becomes available April 15, 2013.

Position Overview:

This is a position with combined duties located at the U.S. District Court, in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. As Clerk of Court, this position is responsible for managing court administrative functions, under direction of the Chief Judge. As Part-Time Magistrate Judge, duties may include: (1) conducting preliminary proceedings in criminal cases; (2) conducting various pretrial matters and evidentiary proceedings on delegation from the District Judge; and (3) trying and disposing of civil cases upon consent of the litigants. Complete information and list of duties must be picked up from the Clerk's Office of the U.S. District Court, or downloaded from <http://www.nmid.uscourts.gov>

Minimum Qualifications:

Candidates must meet the following minimum qualifications for both Clerk of Court and Part-Time Magistrate Judge:

- General and management experience - a minimum of 10 years of progressively responsible administrative experience. At least three of the 10 years experience must have been in a position of management responsibility;
- Be, and have been for at least five years, a member in good standing of the bar of the highest court of a United States jurisdiction;
- Have been engaged in the active practice of law for a period of at least five years;
- Be competent to perform the duties of the office, of good moral character, emotionally stable and mature, committed to equal justice under the law, in good health, patient; courteous, and capable of deliberation and decisiveness when required to act on his or her own reason and judgment;
- Not be related by blood or marriage to a judge of the appointing court, within the degrees specified in 28 U.S.C. § 458;
- Be less than 70 years of age upon appointment.

A complete list of qualifications, educational equivalents, allowed substitutions for experience, and other duties and application requirements must be picked up from the Clerk's Office, U.S. District Court, or downloaded from <http://www.nmid.uscourts.gov>

Citizenship Requirement:

Applicants are required to be United States citizens or otherwise eligible to work in the U.S.

Application Procedure:

Each applicant is required to obtain the application package at the Clerk's Office of the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, or downloaded from <http://www.nmid.uscourts.gov>. Applicants will be reviewed by a Merit Selection Panel that will recommend to the Chief Judge persons it considers best qualified. The court will make the appointment following an FBI full-field investigation and an IRS tax check of the applicant selected. Applications should be submitted only by the applicants personally, indicating the person's willingness to serve if selected, and must be received by January 25, 2013 at 3:30 pm. **Submit original plus 5 copies to:**

Honorable Ramona V. Manglona, Chief Judge
United States District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands
123 Kopa di Oru Street
P.O. Box 500687
Saipan MP 96950

The United States District Court is an Equal Opportunity Employer

ACCOUNTANT

Candidates are to have the following minimum qualifications:

- Bachelor's Degree in Finance/Accounting; CPA preferred
- Three years of progressive accounting experience preferably in cost accounting
- Experience with payroll processing and accounts payable, including enforcement of company policies and adherence to company procedures
- Thorough knowledge of GAAP and GAAS Finance/Accounting practices
- Possess strong analytical ability
- Effective oral and written communications skills
- Technical knowledge of Quickbooks Accounting software
- Intricate working knowledge of ABRA Suite Payroll system
- Understand banking operations and knowledge of ACH network for direct deposit payroll processing and FICA transmittals
- Knowledge of CNMI, and US Federal taxes including compliance and form preparation of, but not limited to, Form 500, Quarterly withholding taxes, payroll taxes, etc.
- Working experience with Microsoft Excel/Pivot Table, Microsoft Outlook and Microsoft Word

Candidates must be able to demonstrate successful accomplishments in the following areas:

- Responsible for the accuracy of accounting transactions relating to payroll, accounts payable, capital acquisitions, and inventory
- Review of related activity and ability to resolve discrepancies
- Analyze and process activity pertaining to IT&E Corporate transactions in compliance with established corporate guidelines, Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and Regulatory body requirements
- Coordinate accounting staff to provide accurate and timely analysis of accounting activity
- Provide management with reports relating to company's efficiency in areas of labor, materials and services.

IT&E offers an attractive and competitive compensation package. Applications must be received by IT&E Human Resources at the IT&E Susupe Headquarters Building on Tekken Street, next to the fire station, on or before January 11, 2013.



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SHRM grant program graduates final training class

The Society for Human Resource Management's Workforce Readiness Initiative program recently graduated its fourth group of administrative trainees seeking positions as hotel front desk clerks, administrative clerks, receptionists, and cashiers. This was the Initiative's 12th and final program, graduating 21 trainees on Dec. 14, completing a week of job preparation and administrative skills training in their efforts to prepare themselves for employment in the CNMI's private sector.

"Hotels and private companies all have a need for administrative staff," said Frank Gibson, Initiative program manager for SHRM and owner of consulting company HR Support, CNMI. "This was a good group of trainees who will do well in filling the needs of the CNMI employers for administrative staff. The training they received will give them a better understanding of what to expect on the job and provided some basic skills to make the company's training and orientation easier and more effective. Most of the trainees are also eligible for support from the WIA Work Experience or On-the-Job-Training Programs. I urge employers to contact the Initiative office at 233-7476, or me personally, at 287-7476, to arrange for interviews."

The 12th Initiative program participants were Myra Agulto, Vayda Aldan, Marites Aulerio, Abigail Borja, Georgia Borja, Nina Braganza, Anuncia Cangco, Michelle Concepcion, Bernadette Dawe, Sonia DeLeon Guerrero, Queena Lyn Fitial, Maria Ito, Begonia Kansou, Dora Beth Kermal, Glarisha Mabel, Leina Olopai, Patroi-



Group 12 of the SHRM Workforce Readiness Initiative program.

cinia M. Pua, Vincent Tagabuel, April Tumada, Emelita Wong, and Mary Pelisamen.

The Hotel Front Desk Clerk and Administrative Clerk program included job preparation classes on job applications and resumes, job interviews, equal employment opportunity and sexual harassment, and employer expectations. Skills training classes were provided on customer service, hotel front desk clerk services, general administrative, receptionist and clerical duties, basic computer concepts, basic cashing concepts, and hotel operations.

SHRM members Jim Arenovski from Delta Management, Malou Ernest from Tan Holdings, Josephine Mesta and Rosalyn Quintanilla from Hyatt Regency Saipan, together with Vicky Benavente from the PIC, Jill Arenovski from Seafix Inc.,

and Nat Angeles and Soc Nilo Villanueva from Tan Holdings, worked with the participants to prepare them for employment.

The Workforce Readiness Initiative program started on April 16 with a one-week Warehouseman training program and just wrapped up, providing training to this final 12th program.

The program was established for the benefit of unemployed U.S. qualified workers. Although this grant year has ended, SHRM encourages individuals who are interested in participating in the program if additional funds are provided for its continuation to immediately register with both the CNMI Department of Labor and WIA and express their interest. Interested individuals can also contact Gibson by e-mail at hrsupportcnmi@gmail.com.

To date over 40 percent of

Initiative graduates have been employed while others are now in the interview and consideration process. SHRM and the Initiative program urges companies interested in considering Initiative graduates to contact Gibson at 233-746 or 287-7476 or by e-mail at hrsupportcnmi@gmail.com.

This program has been supported by federal funds in the amount of \$102,000 under the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs, CNMI Economic and Labor Enhancement Program through a sub-grant award to the CNMI Chapter of the Society of Human Resources from the CNMI Department of Commerce. The CNMI SHRM Initiative was managed by HR Support, CNMI, a CNMI-licensed Human Resource Management consulting and training company. (SHRM)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jan. 7, 1999

Legislature ready to adopt master plan

Legislators are expected to pass a proposed bill to set into motion the recently drafted master plan of various Capital Improvement Projects on the island seen as its only hope to recover from the worsening economic crisis. Members of the Senate yesterday met with Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio and other administration officials to discuss the mechanism on how to utilize some \$154 million in funds guaranteed under the Covenant Agreement. Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez said they are ready to support the proposal which will identify local funds to match the federal assistance on Section 702 projects.

Retirees want payment of bonus assured

For 21 years, Brigida Ichihara had worked for the Public School System, serving as teacher and principal until her retirement from government service on December 4. The former principal of the Koblerville Elementary School would have stayed on, but opted to retire last month out of courtesy for Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio who has repeatedly prodded eligible employees to resign to trim down government personnel. It was her way to help the cash-strapped government slash spending on payroll—which comprises about 75 percent of its budget—amid declining revenues triggered by the worst crisis to hit the Northern Marianas in 50 years.

Jan. 7, 2000

Coalition adopts Caucus Resolution

The bipartisan coalition comprised of members from all three parties has adopted a Caucus Resolution reaffirming their commitment to work "with shared vision of leadership and policy" beginning on the first day of the 12th NMI Legislature. Adopted on Dec. 30, 1999, the resolution says that the group believes that the new House leadership, reflected in the officers and heads of committees, "is the best that the legislature has to offer and will lead us in the new millennium and new time of prosperity for everyone who lives and works here." "We desire to publicly acknowledge our support for the new leadership and express our confidence that the officers of the House stated herein are truly the right people for the job and will lead the House with dignity, honor and zeal," according to the resolution.

House members bid farewell

For some, it spelled the end of a political career nurtured in the past few years. For others, it meant just a break from a high-profile public life that they vow to get back into when the next elections come. But for most members of the House of Representatives, it was the time to pat themselves on the back and rub their mostly bruised egos after two years of drawing controversies while trying to pass laws that have certainly changed the course of CNMI's history. Amid the ongoing battle for the forthcoming set of leaders of the 18-seat chamber, the House held its final session yesterday on its sine die under the 11th Legislature with more speeches and farewells than enacting legislation.

Jan. 7, 2002

Tour program for guest workers' families urged

The Marianas Visitors Authority should explore the possibility of expanding the island's tourism market by creating special tour packages for families of foreign workers in the CNMI. Commonwealth Development Authority board chair Juan S. Tenorio said the MVA should start looking at the growth potentials of coming up with a special tour package designed primarily for families of CNMI-based nonresident workers. Tenorio said that, since a big number of foreign workers in the Northern Marianas normally fly to their respective home countries to be with their family during the holidays, the MVA may come up with a package that would instead entice the workers' relatives to fly to the CNMI.

Korean Air returns on Saturday

The much-anticipated return of Korean Airlines will finally happen this Saturday, at 2am, with the arrival of the first flight that will herald the resumption of direct flight services between Seoul and the Commonwealth. Marianas Visitors Authority officials and local dignitaries will be on hand to welcome the return of Korean Airlines' Seoul-Saipan flight. "The Korea-CNMI daily route will be providing additional seating capacity of more than 2,000 seats per week," said Vicky I. Benavente, acting managing director of MVA. Benavente said it was a welcome sign of hope for the local tourism industry.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Board of Parole

P.O. Box 502641, Saipan, MP 96950-2641
TEL. NOS.: (670) 664-3300 • 3302 FAX (670) 664-3310
E-mail: govhop@pticom.com

BOARD OF PAROLE Preliminary Hearing

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and LT. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the CNMI Board of Parole, and pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II of the "Open Government Act of 1992". Notice is hereby given that a **Preliminary Hearing** is scheduled for **January 08, 2013, (Tuesday) at 10:00 a.m., at the CNMI Board of Parole Office, Capitol Hill Road, Building Number 1216, Saipan.**

The following individual(s) will appear before the Hearing Examiner:

A. Parolee

1. DIAZ, David Tanaka Cr. Cs. No.: 01-0381E BOP No.: 10-005

If you have any question or information, please call the Parole Office at telephone number 664-3300 or 3302.

/s/ Rose Ada Hocog
Hearing Examiner

12/27/2012
Date

Robert Tenorio Torres, Esq.
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758 CK
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: 234-7859
Fax: 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff,]	SMALL CLAIMS NO. 12-0457
]	
vs.]	
GLORIA O. DELTANG, Defendants.]	AMENDED SUMMONS

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT:
GLORIA O. DELTANG

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND NOTIFIED to file any answer you wish to make to the COMPLAINT within twenty (20) days after service of this AMENDED SUMMONS upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to Robert Tenorio Torres, Attorney at Law, P.O. Box 503758 Saipan, MP 96950, or as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court of the above-entitled Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Office of the Clerk of Court, CNMI Superior Court, 1st Floor, Guma'Hustia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950-0307. It may be prepared and signed for you by your attorney and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or by mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this AMENDED SUMMONS, judgment by default pursuant to the Court rules of the above-entitled Court may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the COMPLAINT.

The Pre-Judgment hearing in the above captioned matter is scheduled to be heard on **January 29, 2013 at 1:30 pm.**

SO ORDERED on this 31st day of December, 2012.

/s/ CLERK OF COURT

PUBLIC NOTICE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

This is to inform the General Public that the Republican Party of the Northern Mariana Islands Association will be having its general membership meeting on Tuesday, January 8, 2013, at 6:00PM at the Gapan Central Park.

Agenda

- I. Election of Committeewoman
- II. Miscellaneous
- III. Adjournment

Benigno R. Fitial
President

Midwestern family renews FSM memorial scholarship

A Midwestern family has renewed their support for a Micronesian girl attending a small private school thousands of miles away in the State of Yap.

Orpha Hapdei is a seventh grade student at Saint Mary's School in Colonia. Her family is from the Atoll of Ulithi, a

remote outer island of Yap, Micronesia.

Orpha began attending St. Mary's in 2011, through the Leona Peterson (1926-2011) Memorial K-12 Scholarship. The scholarship pays for three-fourths of her tuition and expenses at the private school in

Yap's capitol city, Colonia. The money was raised entirely by the descendants of Peterson. This last Christmas, the family committed to do the same for the 2012-13 school year.

Leona Peterson was native of Waterloo, Iowa. She led the Department of Aging in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands during the late 1970s and early '80s. At that time Micronesia was one part of the larger U.S.-administered TTPI, which spanned the Central Pacific. In the 1980s, the region transitioned to political

independence. Today, Yap and its outer islands comprise one of the four Federated States of Micronesia.

Following her death, Leona's son, Paul, sought a way to remember his mother's legacy by supporting the islanders whom she spoke so lovingly of. He reached out to

Habele, a small U.S.-based charity that provides scholarships to low-income children across Micronesia. The group also funds after-school projects and donates school books to students and classroom teachers.

Peterson gathered financial



Hapdei

CCA to host bingo fundraiser

The Commonwealth Cancer Association announced over the weekend that it will be sponsoring a Bingo Spectacular fundraising event in partnership with the Massive Bingo Bonanza on Sunday, Jan. 20, 2013. IMB and CCA board members, staff and volunteers will be at the former Garapan Fishing Base Complex to raise funds for CCA programs and services.

The CCA thanks Ben M. Babauta and families for their partnership and assistance in getting the word out to the community about the CCA through the "Bingo Games" event, and for sponsoring the event to raise funds for CCA programs and services.

The "Massive Bingo Bonanza" is one of several events in the community that the CCA has partnered with to aid in fundraising and provide opportunities to

distribute fact sheets about cancer, and at the same time encourage everyone to enjoy.

"Massive Bingo Bonanza" will take place at the former Fishing Base Complex, across the Horiguchi Building in Garapan. Participants will have the opportunity to vie for a \$1,000 cash guarantee payout prize. Tickets are \$20 for one package, each package providing 10 games. The doors will open at 2pm and the games will start at 3pm.

The community is encouraged to come and enjoy the games and assist the very worthy cause of facilitating cancer programs in the CNMI. All proceeds from the event will go to CCA.

You can contact the CCA at 682-0050 or by email at ccamarianas@gmail.com for tickets or for more information about the CCA and its programs. **(CCA)**

COSMOS DISTRIBUTING CO. LTD. is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the position of:

Sales Representative

Associate's degree in Sales & Marketing or Accounting with a minimum of 3 years experience in sales. Proven skills in product marketing and providing excellent customer service are required. Must provide for his/her own reliable transportation for out-of-office work activities and must also be able to meet monthly sales targets. Extensive contacts in various businesses and industries are an advantage. Available to work on evenings, holidays, weekends.

Backgrounds checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment. Salaries will be commensurate with qualifications and experiences. For applications to be considered, they should be sent to hrd@cosmosdistributing.com not later than January 25, 2013.

We are Equal Opportunity Employer

White Coconut Computer Services

PO Box 5525, Saipan, MP 96950

Office: (670) 322-9442 • Fax: (670) 322-9445

Network and Computer Systems Administrator

Install, configure, and support an organization's local area network (LAN), wide area network (WAN), and Internet system or a segment of a network system. Maintain network hardware and software. Monitor network to ensure network availability to all system users and perform necessary maintenance to support network availability. May supervise other network support and client server specialists and plan, coordinate, and implement network security measures. Perform data backups and disaster recovery operations. Perform routine network startup and shutdown procedures, and maintain control records.

REQUIREMENTS/QUALIFICATIONS:

- Post-secondary education, BS Degree or equivalent amount of education and work experience
- Excellent customer service skills
- Excellent working knowledge of computer equipment and operations: Microsoft -- Windows Server Environment includes: Windows 2003 Server, Windows 2008 Server and Windows 2012 Server. CISCO Networking Devices using basic Protocol such as VPN, ASA and other secured and Layer III.
- Must possess Microsoft Certification, Electronics Technician Certification and A+ Certification Professional.
- Must be able to Design and Install Enterprise Data and Communication using copper and fiber optic, Certification is required.
- Must be able to design and install Wireless Network, either indoor or outdoor application, Certification is required.
- Must be able to implement Electronic Security Network, Certification is required
- Must be able to design and install CCTV
- Excellent interpersonal and writing skills.
- Ability to work independently and in a team environment
- Ability to work under time pressures while maintaining a good working attitude

commitments from family members living across Missouri and Iowa. "As the holidays approach this year I was struck with a notion. I would like to keep the named scholarship going year over year," said Peterson. "To that end instead of sending out gift baskets to family and friends I'll make a donation to Habele in their name for the Leona Peterson scholarship fund."

Habele worked with educa-

tors and local volunteers in Yap to select Orpha as the initial recipient of the Peterson Scholarship. According to her sixth-grade teacher, Molly Walag, Orpha earned a GPA of 3.57 for the 2011-12 school year. Her mother proudly mailed a copy of the girl's honor roll certificate to Habele and the Petersons, who've sent a post-Christmas check to Habele for next school year's tuition. **(Habele)**



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

To our wonderful and hardworking boss/magas, Mrs. Rita M. Taitano, many happy returns of the day! May your day be filled with joy and happiness! May God bless you! Greetings come from your LSG family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Invites qualified US workers to apply for the following positions:

(1) SUPERVISOR, SALES ASSOCIATE (CHINA MARKET)

Qualifications: Minimum of 3 years progressive experience at supervisory level and is exceptionally self-motivated. Must be able to supervise sales efforts to achieve and exceed assigned sales goals. Must be skilled at interpreting and communicating company objectives in order to maximize team sales revenue. Must be able to read, write and speak English and Mandarin Chinese. Able to work a varied schedule including weekends and holidays.

(1) SALES ASSOCIATE (CHINA MARKET)

Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent. Must have at least 2 years previous work experience in retail sales. Must be able to provide exemplary customer service, have a team player mindset and an exceptional cash handling accuracy. Effective communication skills, high energy level, patience, stress tolerance and persuasiveness are essential competencies. Must be able to read and write in English and Mandarin Chinese. Must be able to work a varied schedule including weekends and late night shifts.

(3) MESSAGE THERAPIST

Qualifications: Must have gone through training in a vocational school or acquired at least 2 years of related on-the-job experience (Shiatsu, Oil and Foot Massage) in a spa environment. Ability to speak Mandarin Chinese is an advantage. Must be able to adapt to changes in work assignments and willing to work on evenings, weekends and holidays.

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr_frs@fiestasaipan.com. Application Forms may be obtained at our Security Office located at the South Wing. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than January 31, 2013. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Fiesta Resort & Spa, Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.



EVENTS MANAGER

Our Resort is seeking a motivated and experienced Events Manager who will build and strengthen guest relationships while driving event sales and overseeing all event bookings, event staff, and event operations.

We are looking for an individual who is highly creative, articulate, outgoing, and with the ability to provide excellent customer service and staff management in a fun, fast-paced and exciting environment. The candidate must be flexible, friendly, and hardworking and also enjoy interacting with both children and adults. His/her past experience should demonstrate success in sales, creativity, drive and initiative.

As the Events Manager, the responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Working with the Resort Management Team to create, host and promote special events
- Overseeing all event bookings and ensuring superior service to our guests
- Driving community relationships and event sales
- Performing the functions of event team members when necessary

Qualifications:

- Minimum Education: Associate's Degree preferably in Sales, Marketing or Tourism
- Minimum Experience: Two years of experience in a related field
- Ability to develop and market new event ideas
- Ability to work nights, weekends, and holidays
- Organizational, follow-up, and multitasking skills are a must

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr_frs@fiestasaipan.com. Application Forms may be obtained at our Security Office located at the South Wing. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than January 30, 2013. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Fiesta Resort & Spa, Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

GUEST RELATIONS MANAGER (China Market)

Our Resort is looking for a Chinese-speaking (Mandarin) candidate with strong interpersonal, communication and presentation skills who will help ensure the daily smooth running of the hotel by taking care of its guests and being a point of contact for, both Chinese guests and staff.

As the Guest Relations Manager, the responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Working with the management team to provide focused attention on Chinese guests
- Promoting and developing loyalty from Chinese hotel guests by reacting positively to their individual needs and providing a high level of personalized guest service
- Direct any necessary changes to ensure seamless guest service
- Dealing with guest relation issues

Qualifications:

- Minimum Education: Associate's Degree preferably in Sales, Marketing or Tourism
- Minimum Experience: Two years of experience in a related field/similar role or in a high volume hospitality environment at supervisory level or as a Front Office Supervisor
- Advance or native Chinese Mandarin language speaker and writer
- Ability to work flexible hours including nights, weekends, and holidays
- Excellent communication, organizational, and multitasking skills are a must
- Team player

Pacific Oriental Incorporated dba POI Aviation
invites qualified US workers to apply for the following:

Assistant Manager, Passenger Service (1)

AA/AS degree with 6 years of progressive airline passenger service and supervisory experience. Supervises passenger service agents and liaises with customer airlines to resolve concerns regarding flight handling operations. Serves as Ground Security Coordinator and trainer for various airline passenger service systems. Must be knowledgeable with FAA, ICAO, IATA, TSA, local airport and airline regulations.

Lead Cargo Agent (2)

High school diploma or its equivalent with 4 years experience as cargo handler. Handles and accepts cargo according to IATA, FAA, TSA, USPS, local airport, airlines and company regulations. Heads shift or work projects as directed by Manager. Prepares documents for out-going and transfer cargo. Must be able to operate forklift and other cargo handling equipment. Must be able to lift a minimum of 70 lbs. Must be proficient in the use of AFIS System or 360.

Manager, Aircraft Maintenance and Ground Support Equipment

AS degree in Aviation Maintenance Engineering with 10 years progressive experience as licensed A&P (airframe & power plant) Technician. Oversees the activities of Aircraft Maintenance Technicians and supervises all aircraft repairs and services. Must possess a current US FAA A&P License. Must be certified in various aircraft-type maintenance. Must be knowledgeable with FAA, ICAO, IATA, local airport and airline regulations.

Manager, Flight Operations & Ramp Service (1)

AA/AS degree with 8 years of progressive experience in airline ramp operations and flight dispatch. Directs and coordinates activities of the ramp and flight dispatch operations in accordance with the airline policy and FAA, TSA, local airport regulations and established company policies and procedures. Must be US FAA licensed as an Aircraft Dispatcher.

Ramp Agent (1)

High school diploma or its equivalent with 2 years experience in ramp, cargo loading and unloading operations. Operates equipment for loading and off-loading baggage/cargo to and from the aircraft for both commercial and freight aircrafts. Must be able to operate specialized equipment for aircraft servicing and ramp operations. Must be able to lift a minimum of 70 lbs.

Senior Load Planning Specialist (1)

AA/AS degree with 4 years progressive experience in load planning with airline specific certification as load planner. Ensures aircraft load is distributed and secured in accordance with aircraft weight and balance requirements ensuring that aircraft's operational and structural limitation are not exceeded. Prepares monthly flight activity reports. Must be able to perform manual weight and balance calculations.

DEADLINE: JANUARY 8, 2013

Salaries will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. Applications may be obtained at the POI Aviation Office.

Equal Employment Opportunity Employer

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIII, Issue No. 4Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

By BARBARA SHELLY
The Kansas City Star*Barbara Shelly is a columnist for the Kansas City Star. Readers may write to her at: Kansas City Star, 1729 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, Mo. 64108-1413, or by email at bshelly@kc-star.com.*

Don't let 'later' stop you from living fully now

As a kid, I took piano lessons. It was fulfilling. Even as a teenager, I didn't begrudge the practice time. I even enjoyed scales.

I went off to college and there was no piano, although I could have found one if I had tried. But I was busy with school. I told myself I'd return to the piano someday.

In my 20s I was preoccupied with my career and my social life. I said I'd have time to play the piano later.

In my 30s I was busy with marriage, work and family. Someday, I said.

Someday in my 40s I actually purchased a piano. My son took lessons, and I sometimes played tunes we all knew. But I didn't resume lessons myself because I was really busy and there would be time later.

My son abandoned piano lessons and then he left for college. I played the upright piano in the living room sporadically, usually when the house was empty except for the cats. Someday, I said, I would get back to lessons. When I wasn't so busy.

Two years ago, around this time of year, I thought about adding piano lessons to the resolution list. You must be kidding, my inner voice said. I have so much to do, I barely have time to sleep. I'll take piano lessons later.

But this time a competing inner voice answered back.

It said: When?

Yes, when? When is later, and why did I think that later would be any different than right now? There would always be only 24 hours in a day, and there would always be a full menu of obligations and diversions to fill those hours.

A friend had introduced me to a young woman, Kairy Koshoeva, a graduate of the University of Missouri-Kansas City's Conservatory of Music. She plays piano spectacularly and gives lessons. She said she could fit me in every other week.

I was pretty rusty in those first few lessons. It seemed I had lost the ability to count.

Koshoeva assured me my "musical memory" would kick in. I was dubious, but I persevered, freshening up my musical memory with old standbys like "Take Me Out To The Ball Game."

For practice, I had decided to follow the 15-minute plan. I would commit to 15 minutes a day, and see what happened. Surely, in the time that I spent "liking" things on Facebook or wandering around the house straightening up, I could find 15 minutes.

Actually, I almost always ended up practicing for longer than that. And the funny thing is, I really couldn't tell you what I've set aside in order to play the piano for 45 minutes to an hour most days. I seem to get as much done as before.

There had always been time; I just hadn't known it was there.

In early summer this year, my teacher announced a small recital for her students. I had a good 40 years on the other pianists. Some were too small to reach the pedals.

See DON'T on Next Page



Increase company productivity with fewer and better trained employees

The increase of the minimum wage and federalization controls of labor are causing many of us in business major concerns. We either have to raise prices, dismiss some employees, or close shop. All around the islands I hear ranting and raving by many business people: "What shall I do? How can I survive? What is happening to our islands' economy?"

But wait, let's think through the problems. All of us in business know that good employees are the backbone of any company. There is a solution to correcting this labor problem.

There is a law in economics called "the law of diminishing returns." Simply explained it states that by adding more and more resources or people to a project does not necessarily make the project more successful or completed faster. In any project there comes a point that, by adding more resources or more people, will make the project slower and less productive rather than improving it.

Let's use an example such as watering a plant. We realize that a certain amount of water will allow the plant to grow healthy. But if we continue to add more and more water in the belief that more water will make the plant grow faster and healthier, we will notice that the extra water actually destroys the plant as the soil becomes waterlogged.

Can we apply this "law of diminishing returns" to our current nonresident labor workforce? With the impending implementation of federalization, we will see an increasing number of them being forced to return to their own countries. This is a serious situation and has many of us deeply concerned. However let's view the problem differently and see if new opportunities do not exist.

Compare a construction job such a building a house in Hawaii to one being built on Saipan. I have studied both places and have noticed a major difference. In Hawaii, the project requires only a handful of workers because each worker is skilled in his particular trade. In Hawaii the worker uses modern tools to do his job. For example, how many carpenters here use skill saws or electric sanding machines? How many workers use chipping guns? How many use pneumatic nailing guns? Have we noticed how much hand labor and time is spent to sift sand? How many of our nonresident workers have graduated from a trade school? Because so many of our nonresident workers do not use modern tools and are not trained craftsmen, we really need 20 to 30 workers to build a house.

From my personal experience when I had my house built here on Saipan, I hired an American independent contractor. He then hired only skilled labor and had them come in as they were needed in their particular trade. For example, when the contractor was ready to lay the foundation for the house, he only had the workers specializing in that portion of the work report. As he needed walls to be constructed, he had his mason workers come, later his electricians

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune*Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is a former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.*

followed, then plumbers and painters. Each group had a strict time frame so that that each group's work would not delay or interfere with the other trades. I never saw more than five or six men working at one time on the house. As a result the house was built on schedule, faster and within budget. The cost was lower because of higher productivity and the workers got higher wages.

In a restaurant do we need all the waiters and waitresses? I have noticed that the more waiters and waitresses in a restaurant, the worse the service is. Again, how do restaurants in the mainland get away with using fewer waiters and fewer kitchen help? Could it be that they are better trained thereby working more efficiently?

When I lived in Tokyo years ago, salaries were very low. Every department store had about 10 girls behind small counters serving customers. As wages increased some of the girls disappeared. But the sales volume stayed the same. I have noticed the same in Honolulu, Los Angeles, and in many other cities. When wages are low, many employees are used. But when wages are raised, fewer employees are hired. Yet sales do not drop and many times the service is better. Why is this so?

When employees are properly trained and paid decent wages, they are motivated. As a result their work performance is higher and faster. But how many of us business owners take the time to study this? Instead we have had the luxury of using cheap and plentiful nonresident workers, thinking that it is a blessing. We feel that quantity is good. Few of us actually check the standard of performance. When it doesn't match with our expectations, we simply shrug it off and mumble, "Well, what more can we expect from them? They are nonresident workers." We rarely consider a fully integrated training program and rarely consider using local labor. We forget that good employees are trained, not born.

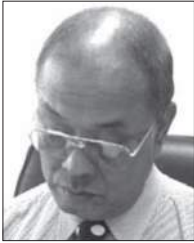
Now that fewer and fewer nonresident workers will be available, we must change our attitude on how to use our employees. The time has come to consider hiring local resident employees and train them. We must motivate them, pay them a decent wage once they are trained, and treat them with respect. After all they represent us

See INCREASE on Next Page

Tutuhon 2013

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



Siempre buruka i seŋsoŋ siha gi tutuhon este na sakan. U halom un’ dañkulu na estrakadan politika gi planun para umana’ suha (impeach) i gobietnu.

I mayoria para u mueba este na planu kumu mandatun ‘sino inetden publiku guine gi mampos na eleksion. ‘An mohayan i sanpapa’ na guma’, siempre i asunto u hanau hulu’ gi Senate ‘nai u guaha hinisga kulan kotte gi ma-akukusa umaminasa probision konstitusion gi kinenduktan che’chu’ linahyan.

Ti sen ma’lag na tinituhon lau ta pega gi un’ banda ya i mankabayeru u sinatba i asunto ni masoda’ kumu dañkulu na estotbbu gi inaminasan lai yan mafa’ basulan ñaihon inaŋgokun publiku. Tai layag ni timon i galaide ‘nai man-mau’udai hit pagu.

Dibinan Kabayeru

Kahulu’ un’ bachet na kuestion kau umasatba i probleman i tanu’ ‘an mana’ suha i gobietnadot. Kulan i intensioŋ para umatulaika i konbetsasioŋ.

Lau i propiu kuestion: haf’ na che’chu’ adelantu ha cho’gue para u hatsa kualidat linala’ i publiku pot sais años na tiempu? Na ti todupumadedese linala’ miserable?

Muŋga maletke i sinsiya na kuestion pot haf’ bidaña para u adelanta linala’ i linahyan. Kada unu tumuŋgu’ haf’ propiu na ineppe gi este na kuestioŋ.

Na ti guiya umisague inaŋgokun publiku ‘nai ha yute’ gi kahon

basula? ‘Nai taya’ esta inaŋgogku, kau siña mandispose fitme ‘nai taigue i publiku si santatte?

Mampos bibu i gipot pot gumubietnu-gue’ ya seguruyu’ na ni unabes ‘nai hahassu haf’ taimanu fatoña guihe na puestu.

Mattu gi ha aminasa i guaguan na inaŋgokun publiku ni hafa’ basula. Ni u ensinahyau para u ke riskata i inaŋgokun publiku esta sumen atrasau.

Bes enkuando, kada ha lasa teŋgun i membron lehislatura ha trukus un’ banda. Dispues de aminasu mamaisen maila’ tapan machochu’.

Che’chu’ muron i hafa’ malefague’ na i ha fafana’ man-ma-elihe lokue’ para u guaddia parehu i asuntun linahyan siha. Magahet na ‘an un’ yamag relasionmu yan un’ prohimu u listu umatrebigue’ man-ayuda? Man-tautau lokue’ i otru banda seŋot.

Ilegat na kontrata

Segun i kehan CUC ni hana’ halom gi kotte, i kontrata ni ha fitma i gobietnadot para nuebu na fasilidat kandet ilegal. I deklarasion emerensiha ti kinubre lai pot solu kontrata ni maregalon ñaihon sin anunsio. Pot este mina’ ilegal mana’e na kontrta i Saipan Development LLC.

Dispues, mampos mana’e bintaha i kompania kontodu gastu siha ni debi guiya u apagaye. Era i kontrata ha basiha ennau na katgu gi tautau siha. Kontodu direchon makonfiskan propiadat CUC mana’e. Lau deste ñgai’an na siña tautau hiyuŋ manbende tanu publiku guine?

Fuetsau lokue’ i CUC debi u hatsa apas kandet ennau i 88 pot sientu pot parta u siña umapase dibiña siha gi tutuhon i kontrata. I tautau para u chinahlau este na subrida. Mampos este makat na tinilaika para i tautau hombre pa’gu megai ti muna’ siña i mampos tatkilu’ na kobransa. Este ha’ solu na apas lamegai na bisnis fuetsau manhinichum pettan niha.

Minaipen Tautau

I matdision minaipen tautau sumen binenu ya ti ma-malimienda. Piot ya un’ hasŋgune tumailayiye, aŋgoku na mas fotte i mama-maila’ ‘an kumilulog tatte malabidamu giya hagu mismu. Este

ti umahñau!

Diberas hu li’e’ este na tirun matdisioŋ gi ‘nos kuantos tautau. Ti komprendiyon i makabronuye kadu’ taya’ i mampos chatsaga yan miserable na finapos niha. Mampos mabanidosuye i asunto pot para u fatta na man-guaha siha lau hagas ha’ man-taya’.

Dispues mu-malaŋgu yan sumen chafleg finaposña. Sumen na’mase’ na finapos kontodu i ha’ane ‘nai madispose. Hoŋgeyu’ na maulegña gai atuŋgu’ maseha arastrau na poble.

Pa’gu yangin un’ hasŋgune i linahyan pot banidosu-mu, pues i dinimalas u saga gi famaguon-mu pot hinerasion. Siha para u kinatga matdisioŋ publiku piot ‘nai klaru na un’ laŋgag fuma’ basula i likidu na inaŋgokun niha. Mas te’ug i kastiguña i renispuestan publiku. Gi finu’ I Saina manu i un’ chogue gi otru siempre un’ hinegse dies buettas dispues!

Offisiun konsensian publiku

I mapos na sakan ‘nai hu komple 40 años deske hu okupa este na pahina gi gaseta. Iya hululu’ na responsablidad i para bai diskute, gi ti mapot na manera, haf’ i asunto. Pa’gu yan inembrasa prinsipiu ‘sino konseptu, debi ta’lu bailu pula’ para u guaha kinemprende haf’ masusesede gi tano’ta.

Huŋgan, guaha na biahe siha ‘nai hu gacha’ yan tiges damagas ‘nos kuantos. Lau sakrifisiu ennau na pinetsige po proteksioŋ publiku. Todu po tod, hu chage pinasensia yan presentasioŋ faktu gi hiyuŋ petsonat na ripot. Na payun hau umatan haf’ i asunto ahe’ ti haye sumasaŋgan soluke haf’ ha saŋgan. Gaige ideuña gi fino’ña ni siña un’ ebalua sin ditensioŋ.

Este na offisiu debi u ma’udai gi edukasioŋ yan fitme na kreneansa gi katkuet sakudida. Debi u sahŋge i asunto yan i tautau. Kumeke ileghu, ti hagu dumetetmimina i asunto soluke haf’ bidamu piot publikamente. ‘An mauleg, pues sanu yan oppan na onru. Pa’gu ‘an chatdisioŋ, pues parehu na tratamientu yan i mefe’na. Ni unu u soplupiot gi diskuidon yan inaminasan publiku.

Si Yuus Maase’ po in’sedeyu’ gi hinasson yan korason miyu. Un’ dia lokue siempre bai’ pega papa’ lapeshu. Taimanu ha’ i dineku’ atdau gi sanhaya, siempre u tunog yan machum gi sanlagu. Si Yuus Ma’ase’. Si lku.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Piggyback improved status bill to other bills

Based on our reading in the CNMI media, long-term contract workers with no U.S. citizen dependents in the CNMI may be included when a similar bill like H.R. 1466 is introduced in the future. We had communicated with numerous U.S. congressional offices throughout the United States for their support for granting long-term alien workers immigration status in the CNMI. We were told that it is a common courtesy for the congressman or congresswoman who represents the CNMI to initiate the process by introducing a bill in the lower house. It was fruitless for any of us to continue requesting for assistance from other congressional district in the past, but a bill introduced on behalf of our brothers and sisters in the CNMI will translate to a different ball game. We can at least request for individuals, groups or entities in other congressional districts to contact their elected officials to support such a bill.

Growing up in the United States, attending school and working side by side with illegal immigrants was the most crucial part of understanding the human factors in our lives. The illegal immigrants are very productive and the most studious individuals we have ever seen. Many suffered prior to making it to the United States and their past experiences made them good contributors to the U.S. economic system. These are the people who will not complain at work and they will not take things for granted in their daily lives. They are the

ones who make things happen in the United States and they tend to stay away from breaking the law. If we look at the situation of the contract workers in the CNMI, there are similarities with what we have encountered with illegal aliens in the United States. They are go-getters and they contribute to our economic growth. The only difference between the two groups is that the illegal aliens we encountered were later given legal status and our brothers/sisters in the CNMI are still in limbo.

If our U.S. congressional representative wants to help our brothers and sisters, he/she can request for a presidential order (executive order) or lobby the lower house for support. According to a congressional office in Washington, D.C., H.R. 1466 or a similar bill can be introduced with any bill such as a Farm Bill or Defense Bill. If an identical bill is introduced on immigration or justice bill in the U.S. Congress, the chances of the bill being passed is zero. Based on the track record of the Republican-majority U.S. Congress, they are anti-immigrant and the non-passage of the American Dream Act in the lower house is evident. If a bill is introduced in a justice bill, the most powerful entity in the United States is the National Rifle Association and any bill similar to H.R. 1466 will be used as a pawn in the political games in our nation’s capital. Such a bill will not see the light of day and false hopes will be put upon our brothers and

sisters in the CNMI.

Based on our research, the chance of a bill similar to H.R. 1466 passing the U.S. lower house is by attaching it to a farm bill. We learned it in our U.S. history/government classes in college; it is called pork barrel. A pork barrel is when a U.S. congressman/congresswoman brings back funding from D.C. for their congressional district’s pet projects. Millions, if not billions, of dollars are forked out to farming districts throughout the United States in the form of farm subsidies and a bill like H.R. 1466 will have tremendous chances of being passed piggybacked to a major farm bill. The Republican majority in the U.S. Congress will have to think twice before denying their congressional districts pork barrel incentives and they may let such a bill slight through for the sake of their constituents. The funding for pet projects in Washington are allocated by inserting bills within a major bill like Defense, Farm, or a bill like the Sandy Relief Bill, which allocated millions of dollars for other congressional districts projects. We are not Honorable Sablan, but we know that he listen to his constituents as a whole and hopefully it will turn out for the best for our brothers and sisters in the CNMI in the future.

Segundo Castro
Fresno, CA

DON’T

From Page 10

We sat in the front row, with an audience of family members. “Have you done a recital before?” I asked the girl beside me, who looked to be about 10. “Lots,” she said, exuding much more confidence than I was feeling.

Still, I managed a nocturne by Chopin and a rousing rondo by Mozart.

Soon after that, my college student came home for a visit, attached as usual to his laptop and headphones. I asked him what he was listening to and he surprised me by saying “Rachmaninoff.” I mentioned this to Koshoeva, who had grown up in Kyrgyzstan and studied in Moscow. Sergei Rachmaninoff is one of her favorite composers.

“You should learn Rachmaninoff to play for your son,” she said. We looked at a composition. It was ridiculously difficult. “Well, I can’t play that,” I said. “Sure you can,” Koshoeva said. “You just learn the chords one finger at a time.”

INCREASE

From Page 10

to each and every customer. We must make every employee feel he is needed and appreciated. Frankly speaking, we can do with fewer employees once we accept this fact and work toward improving our employee relationship.

Consider this situation. If I hire two mediocre employees at \$5.55 per hour, I need to pay them \$11.10 for the two. But if I train one of them to do the job of two workers and pay him \$9 per hour, I save \$2.10 per hour. The employee is motivated to work harder and better because he is earning \$9, and I am happy because I am saving

\$2.10 per hour. And my customers are satisfied with the service of a motivated employee. Thus everybody wins. I have been doing this for years in my companies with success. But of course, I am not saying that it works in every job position. But study our own company and see where it can apply.

A word to employers: Study how we can better train and motivate our local labor force. By doing this we will reap more benefits than anticipated. We cannot continue using nonresident workers for all our needs. True, we need specialists that we do not possess. Even in my own companies I notice this and adjust. But for daily normal operations, let us strive to hire and train local workers.

I am not suggesting that nonresident workers are not good workers. The fact is that many of them are excellent, dedicated, and loyal

workers. Without them we would not survive in many occupations. They have done and are doing a fantastic job. I respect them highly! But we must slowly begin to wean ourselves from too much dependence, especially when so many of our local people have become addicted to food stamps.






As stated above, if we train our local residents better and motivate them, we will benefit along with them in our company. We will be able to pay them a better wage while enjoying saving costs to us. Think about and even try out my suggestion.

And despite all the headaches, remember that a *smile* is the international language of our hearts. A *smile* speaks Chinese, Korean, Russian, Japanese, and all the other languages. So *smile* and have a great day.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

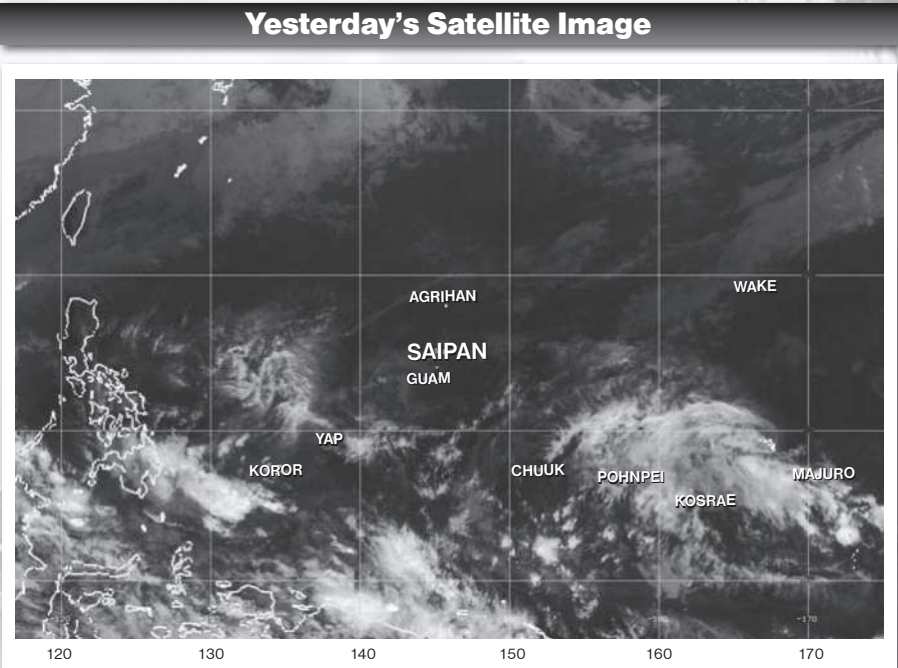
5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Windy	▲ 86 ▼ 79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 84 ▼ 77
Yap	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 79
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 81
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 81
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 81
Majuro	Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 83

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Windy	▲ 72 ▼ 68
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲ 27 ▼ 13
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 66 ▼ 61
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 78 ▼ 70
London	Cloudy	▲ 50 ▼ 46
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲ 61 ▼ 47
Manila	Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 78
Melbourne	Sunny	▲ 89 ▼ 58
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 79 ▼ 67
New York	Snow	▲ 39 ▼ 30
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 47 ▼ 36
Paris	Cloudy	▲ 48 ▼ 38
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲ 42 ▼ 29
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲ 60 ▼ 41
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲ 47 ▼ 40
San Francisco	Showers	▲ 55 ▼ 47
Seoul	Cloudy	▲ 28 ▼ 14
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲ 46 ▼ 36
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲ 48 ▼ 35

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
3:50 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
8:41 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
2:43 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
10:16 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, JANUARY 6, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A trade-wind disturbance near the Marianas is generating scattered showers near and west of Guam and Saipan within 100 miles of a line from 13N141E to 14N146E. A near-equatorial trough curves southeastward from 5N130E through a weak circulation centered south of Koror at 5N134E to end at EQ149E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found southwest of Koror west of a line from 4N134E to 7N134E and southeast of Koror south of a line from 6N140E to 6N150E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Pohnpei, Kosrae and Majuro within 200 miles of a line from 9N157E to 4N172E to 4N178E. A cold front extends southwestward from northeast of Wake Island at 25N176E to 21N167E then continues as a shear line to east of the CNMI at 14N154E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are occurring along and up to 300 miles northwest of these features.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:45 AM	6:01 PM	Today	1:40 AM	1:29 PM
Tuesday	6:45 AM	6:02 PM	Tuesday	2:40 AM	2:42 PM
Wednesday	6:46 AM	6:03 PM	Wednesday	3:43 AM	3:23 PM
Thursday	6:46 AM	6:03 PM	Thursday	4:46 AM	4:26 PM
Friday	6:46 AM	6:04 PM	Friday	5:47 AM	5:31 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ **CAMPUS BULLETIN**
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JAN. 7, 2013									
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)					GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN				
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7		UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7	
UA5062	4:40am	5:30am	1, 3, 5		UA5071	7:05am	7:55am	Daily	
UA5068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily		UA5073	9:50am	10:40am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7	
UA5074	11:10am	12:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7		UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7	
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily		UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily	
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily		UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily	
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily						
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)					NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN				
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily		DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily	
DL285	6:35am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7		DL286	7:40pm	12:15am+1	2, 4, 6, 7	
DL297	4:25pm	7:20pm	Daily		DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily	
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)					OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN				
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily		OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily	
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)					BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN				
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 6, 7		OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 5, 6	
OZ608	3:30am	6:40am	3		OZ607	9:35pm	2:25am+1	2	
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)					SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN				
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1		OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily	
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7		OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX	
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX		OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7	
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily		OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)					SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN				
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7		3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7	
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)					BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN				
MU7108	3:50am	7:00am	1, 5		MU7107	7:40pm	2:55am+1	4, 7	
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)					GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN				
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6		3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5	
SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)					VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN				
XF1734	6:30am	12:30pm	5		XF1733	8:00pm	12:05am+1	4	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1		OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN	
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7		DL172/288	8:05am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT	
UA5070/191	4:35am	10:00am	6 via GUM		UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM	
UA5070/191	4:40am	10:00am	3		UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM	
DL287/173	6:00am	10:25pm	Daily via NRT		OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM		OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM		PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN		UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:55am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM		UA184/5071	11:59pm	7:55am+1	2, 5 via GUM	
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)					HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN				
OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN		OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN	
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN		OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
UA5076/147	3:10pm	10:30pm	1, 5 via GUM		OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN		UA180/5071	11:25pm	10:40am+1	1 via GUM	
					UA180/5077	11:25pm	6:25pm+1	5 via GUM	
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air.									
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)									

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE									
Airline				ETD	ETA	Airline			
Guam-Rota						FRE 115			
FRE 100				7:30	8:00	FRE 117			
Rota-Saipan						FRE 119			
FRE 100				8:20	8:50	FRE 121			
Guam-Rota						FRE 123			
FRE 300				17:00	17:30	FRE 125			
Rota-Saipan									
FRE 400				17:50	18:20				
Saipan-Rota						Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200				9:30	10:00	FRE 102			
Rota-Guam						FRE 104			
Saipan-Rota				10:20	10:45	FRE 106			
FRE 400				18:55	19:25	FRE 108			
Rota-Guam						FRE 110			
FRE 400				19:40	20:10	FRE 112			
Saipan-Tinian						FRE 114			
FRE 101				6:45	6:55	FRE 116			
FRE 103				7:30	7:40	FRE 118			
FRE 105				8:00	8:10	FRE 120			
FRE 107				8:40	8:50	FRE 122			
FRE 109				9:10	9:20	FRE 124			
FRE 111				10:45	10:55	FRE 126			

Business

Some gun shows canceling after Conn. mass shooting

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. (AP)—Several gun shows, all about an hour's drive from Newtown, Conn., have been canceled.

A show in White Plains, N.Y.—brought back a few years ago after being called off for a decade because of the Columbine shooting—is off because officials decided it didn't seem appropriate now, either. In Danbury, Conn.—about 10 miles west of Newtown—the venue backed out. Same with three other shows in New York's Hudson Valley, according to the organizer.

Gun advocates aren't backing down from their insistence on the right to keep and bear arms. But heightened sensitivities and raw nerves since the Newtown shooting have led to toned-down displays at gun shows and prompted some officials and sponsors to cancel the well-attended exhibitions altogether.

Some of the most popular guns will be missing from next weekend's gun show in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., after show organizers agreed to bar the display and sale of AR-15 military-style semiautomatic weapons and their large-clip magazines.

"The majority of people wanted these guns out of the city," said Chris Mathiesen, Saratoga Springs' public safety commissioner. "They don't want them sold in our city, and I agree. Newtown, Conn., is not that far away."

The mayor of Barre, Vt., wants a ban on military-style assault weapons being sold at an annual gun show in February. Mayor Thom Lauzon says he supports responsible gun ownership but is making the request "as a father." The police

chief in Waterbury, Conn., just a few miles from Newtown, has halted permits for gun shows, saying he was concerned about firearms changing hands that might one day be used in a mass shooting.

In White Plains, in New York's suburban Westchester County, Executive Rob Astorino had brought back the show in 2010 after a ban of more than a decade following the 1999 Columbine High School shooting in Colorado, but he said the show would be inappropriate now. The shows in the Hudson Valley and Danbury were listed as canceled on the website for Big Al's Gun Shows. A man who answered the site's contact number said it was the venues that canceled the shows, not the promoter.

In Houston, transportation officials temporarily stopped using electronic freeway signs to give directions to gun shows amid complaints following such a show the day after the Dec. 14 school shooting. State-level transportation officials overruled the decision. The signs are routinely used to direct traffic or tell visitors where to exit freeways for rodeos, sporting events and gun shows.

On Wednesday, the City Council in Saratoga Springs urged organizers of a downtown gun show Jan. 12-13 not to display military-style weapons and the high-capacity magazines "of the type used in the Newtown tragedy." About a dozen people gave impassioned pleas at the meeting.

Show organizer David Petronis of New Eastcoast Arms Collectors Associates agreed to the limit.

"I don't think it's fair that we're taking the brunt of the

problem," Petronis said, "but I can understand the reaction of people in doing so."

Petronis said his group is a "nice, clean family-oriented ... arms fair" that brings in thousands of visitors and a lot of money for the city. He stressed

that buyers at his show undergo background checks, as per New York state law.

The gunman in the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in December used an AR-15 to kill 20 first-graders and six educators in the school. The

gun belonged to the shooter's mother, but it's not clear where it was bought. The shooting has led to calls for stricter regulation of assault weapons, though the National Rifle Association has steadfastly opposed such measures.

Gun dealers around the country are reporting a spike in sales of semiautomatic rifles amid renewed talk of a federal ban on assault weapons. The possibility of tighter gun control has also pumped up attendance at gun shows in several states.



AP
Gun owners discuss a potential sale of an AR-15, one of the most popular and controversial weapons, during the 2013 Rocky Mountain Gun Show at the South Towne Expo Center in Sandy, Utah Saturday, Jan. 5, 2013.

WSJ says Hostess in talks to sell bread brands

NEW YORK (AP)—The makers of Thomas' English muffins and Tastykake snacks are emerging as the two of the bidders for Wonder Bread and other Hostess bread brands as the company tries to sell off its assets under bankruptcy-court oversight, a newspaper reported Saturday.

The Wall Street Journal said Hostess Brands Inc. could reveal as early as next week that Flowers Foods Inc. and Grupo Bimbo SAB are in discussions to acquire the bread brands, which also include Nature's Pride. The

report said the brands could command \$350 million.

Grupo Bimbo's brands include Arnold breads, Thomas' English muffins and Entenmann's cakes. Flowers Foods Inc.'s brands include Nature's Own breads and Tastykake snacks.

Hostess sells Twinkies, Ding Dongs and Ho Hos, along with Dolly Madison cakes, which includes Coffee Cakes and Zingers. Hostess also sells Devil Dogs, Funny Bones, and Yodels under the Drake's brand.

Hostess, which is based in Irving, Texas, announced in

November that it was shutting down its business and selling its bread, snacks and cakes brands along with its 33 bakeries and other operations.

The company's demise came after years of management turmoil and turnover. Workers said the company failed to invest in updating its snack cakes and breads. Hostess filed for its second Chapter 11 bankruptcy in less than a decade last year, citing steep costs associated with its unionized workforce.

The company was able to reach a new contract agreement with its largest union, the Team-

sters, but the bakers union rejected the terms and went on strike Nov. 9. A week later, Hostess announced its plans to liquidate, saying the strike crippled its ability to maintain normal production. In 2011, the company's revenue was \$2.5 billion.

Hostess declined to comment, as did Grupo Bimbo's U.S. division, Bimbo Bakeries USA. Bimbo's parent company is headquartered in Mexico. A message left with Flowers Foods, which is based in Thomasville, Ga., was not immediately returned.

Obama wants action on government's borrowing limit

HONOLULU (AP)—President Barack Obama is hailing a last-minute deal that pulled the country back from the "fiscal cliff," but warned that he "will not compromise" over his insistence that Congress lift the federal debt ceiling.

Obama said in his radio and Internet address Saturday that the fiscal cliff deal, approved by Congress on New Year's Day and signed Thursday, raises taxes on the wealthiest Americans while preventing a middle-class tax increase that could have thrown the economy back into

recession.

With one crisis behind him, Obama faces new battles in Congress over raising the country's \$16.4 trillion borrowing limit, as well as scaling back more than \$100 billion in automatic spending cuts for the military and domestic programs. The cuts are delayed by two months under the compromise.

Lawmakers promise to replace those across-the-board cuts with more targeted steps that could take longer to implement.

Obama, speaking from Hawaii, where he is on vacation

with his family, said he is willing to consider more spending cuts and tax increases to reduce the deficit.

But he said he will not compromise over his insistence that Congress lift the debt ceiling. The nation's credit rating was downgraded the last time lawmakers threatened inaction on the debt ceiling, in 2011.

"If Congress refuses to give the United States the ability to pay its bills on time, the consequences for the entire global economy could be catastrophic," Obama said. "Our fami-

lies and our businesses cannot afford that dangerous game again."

If elected officials from both parties "focus on the interests of our country above the interests of party, I'm convinced we can cut spending and raise revenue in a manner that reduces our deficit and protects the middle class," Obama said.

In the Republican address, Rep. Dave Camp of Michigan said that as attention again turns to the debt limit, "we must identify responsible ways to tackle Washington's wasteful spending."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Bluefin tuna sells for record \$1.76M in Tokyo

TOKYO (AP)—A bluefin tuna sold for a record \$1.76 million at a Tokyo auction Saturday, nearly three times the previous high set last year - even as environmentalists warn that stocks of the majestic, speedy fish are being depleted worldwide amid strong demand for sushi. In the year's first auction at Tokyo's sprawling Tsukiji fish market, the 222-kilogram (489-pound) tuna caught off northeastern Japan sold for 155.4 million yen, said Ryoji Yagi, a market official. The fish's tender pink and red meat is prized for sushi and sashimi. The best slices of fatty bluefin—called "o-toro" here—can sell for 2,000 yen (\$24) per piece at upmarket Tokyo sushi bars. Japanese eat 80 percent of the bluefin tuna caught worldwide, and much the global catch is shipped to Japan for consumption.

Sudan, South Sudan agree to implement oil deal

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP)—The presidents of Sudan and South Sudan agreed Saturday to the unconditional and speedy implementation of deals reached in September to demilitarize their shared borders and allow oil exports to flow from South Sudan's oil fields north through Sudan's pipelines, an African Union official said. Sudan President Omar al-Bashir and South Sudan President Salva Kiir met on Friday and Saturday in Ethiopia's capital to revive a stalled oil exportation deal that has lagged for months over disputes on the setup of security arrangements in the border regions. AU mediator Thabo Mbeki told reporters late Saturday that the two presidents agreed to the "speedy, unconditional and coordinated" implementation of the agreements.

Nation

Salvors ready Shell drill ship for tow attempt

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—Royal Dutch Shell PLC will try to move its grounded drill ship out of the worst of the North Pacific's fury with a towing attempt when conditions allow.

Shell incident commander Sean Churchfield said at a press conference Saturday that naval architects have pronounced the Kulluk fit to be towed. The attempt will depend on weather, tides and readiness, he said.

"I can't offer you firm times. Right now, the preparation for the tow depends on the weather and operational constraints," Churchfield said. "We will be looking to move the vessel as soon as we are ready and able."

If the drill ship can be pulled from the rocks off Sitkalidak Island, it will be towed 30 miles to shelter in Kodiak Island's Kiliuda Bay, a cove about 43 miles

southeast of the city of Kodiak.

The Kulluk is a circular barge 266 feet in diameter with a funnel-shaped, reinforced steel hull that allows it to operate in ice. One of two Shell ships that drilled last year in the Arctic Ocean, it has a 160-foot derrick rising from its center and no propulsion system of its own.

The tow attempt will be made by the same vessel that lost the Kulluk last month while attempting to move it to Seattle. A line between the 360-foot anchor handler, the Aiviq, and the Kulluk broke Dec. 27. Four re-attached lines between the Aiviq or other vessels also broke in stormy weather.

The attempt to rein in the drill ship was complicated by engine failure experienced by the Aiviq's four engines. A preliminary investigation pointed to

bad fuel but that is not conclusive, Churchfield said. The Edison Chouest Offshore crew has treated fuel and changed filters.

"Thus far, we have not seen a repeat of those problems," he said.

Fuel tanks remain intact on the Kulluk and there are no plans to remove an estimated 150,000 gallons of diesel from the Kulluk, which would present a different set of risks, Churchfield said. Other cargo also will remain.

Coast Guard Capt. Paul Mehler, the federal on-scene coordinator, said no divers have been in the water but soundings from small Coast Guard boats and discussions with local fishermen indicate the vessel rests on a rocky bottom.

Not every piece of equipment was in place Saturday afternoon, he said.

Republican Party seems as divided, angry as ever

BOSTON (AP)—The Republican Party seems as divided and angry as ever.

Infighting has penetrated the highest levels of the House GOP leadership. Long-standing geographic tensions have increased, pitting endangered Northeastern Republicans against their colleagues from other parts of the country. Enraged tea party leaders are threatening to knock off dozens of Republicans who supported a measure that raised taxes on the nation's highest earners.

"People are mad as hell. I'm right there with them," Amy Kremer, chairman of the Tea Party Express, said late last week, declaring that she has "no confidence" in the party her members typically support. Her remarks came after GOP lawmakers

agreed to higher taxes but no broad spending cuts as part of a deal to avert the "fiscal cliff."

"Anybody that voted 'yes' in the House should be concerned" about primary challenges in 2014, she said.

At the same time, one of the GOP's most popular voices, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, blasted his party's "toxic internal politics" after House Republicans initially declined to approve disaster relief for victims of Superstorm Sandy. He said it was "disgusting to watch" their actions and he faulted the GOP's most powerful elected official, House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio.

The GOP's internal struggles to figure out what it wants to be were painfully exposed after Mitt Romney's loss to President

Barack Obama on Nov. 6, but they have exploded in recent days. The fallout could extend well beyond the party's ability to win policy battles on Capitol Hill. It could hamper Republicans as they examine how to regroup and attract new voters after a disheartening election season.

To a greater degree than the Democrats, the Republican Party has struggled with internal divisions for the past few years. But these latest clashes have seemed especially public and vicious.

"It's disappointing to see infighting in the party," said Ryan Williams, a Republican operative and former Romney aide. "It doesn't make us look like we're in a position to challenge the president and hold him accountable to the promises he made."

After NYC subway deaths, barriers get new eye

NEW YORK (AP)—Every day, throngs of riders stand on the edge of danger in the nation's busiest subway system, waiting on platforms with nothing between them and the tracks.

Dozens of subway and light rail systems around the world have safety barriers with sliding doors on their platforms, but the idea hasn't gotten traction in New York. Yet transit officials are giving it a new look after two people were pushed and a third fell to their deaths on the tracks since early December.

Safety doors would be expensive and difficult additions to the sprawling, 108-year-old subway system, but some people are urging the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to try it. A company has proposed to install the barriers for free in exchange for advertising revenue.

Being shoved or bumped onto the tracks is "my biggest worry about New York," said

Ed David, a cinematographer who last spring launched an online petition to install the devices after reading about a college student who was hurled onto the tracks and killed by a train amid a fight at a Brooklyn subway station.

"I know that people like the roughness" of New York subways, said David, "but it's a horrible way to die, and it can be prevented."

About 140 people are hit by New York City subways per year, in situations such as accidental knocks and willful leaps. Fifty-five people died last year and 47 in 2011, according to the MTA.

The numbers are small compared to the 1.6 billion subway rides taken each year, and officials say a substantial proportion is suicides.

But two men were killed last month in a scenario out of an urban nightmare—each propelled

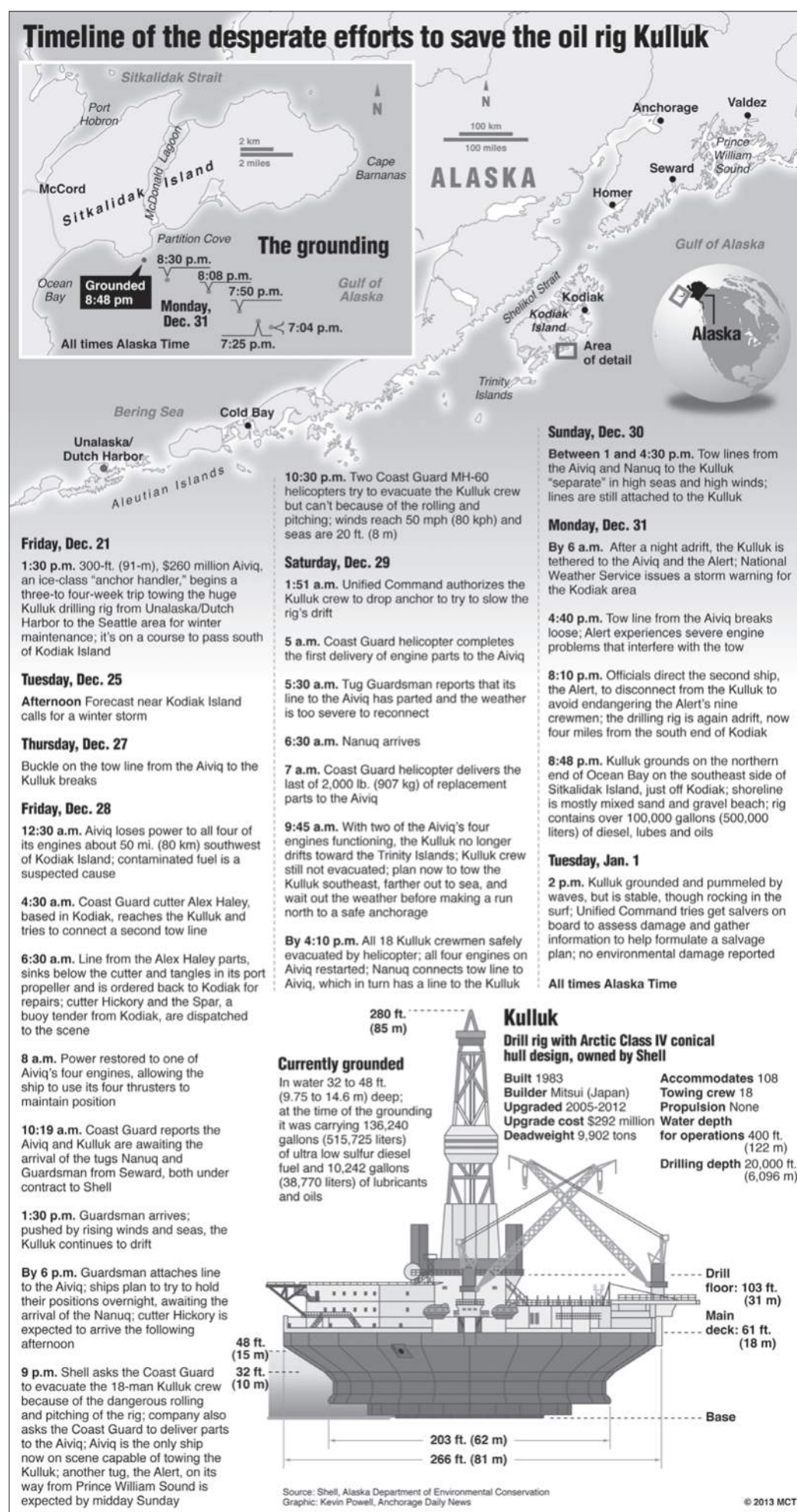
into the path of an onrushing train by a mumbling stranger, in separate incidents. Then a stumbling woman fell onto the tracks and died when a train hit her early on New Year's Day.

Subway systems from Shanghai to Dubai to Paris have installed safety doors over the last three decades.

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—In 2010, Gov. Chris Christie underestimated the first major storm of his administration by flying to Disney World hours before snow crippled New Jersey. A year later, he overplayed Tropical Storm Irene with the now-infamous order, "Get the hell off the beach."

When Superstorm Sandy set its sights on his state, he had learned his lesson: be more hands on, more empathetic.

"I had a sense from the beginning that this one was going to



Christie: Comments on Obama, Boehner part of job

be really bad," Christie, 50, told The Associated Press in an interview last week that reflected on a first term that has now positioned him in the national spotlight and as a potential 2016 presidential contender.

"With Irene, I went back and forth because the forecasts were going back and forth. When the National Weather Service says it's going to be a wipe out of the Shore then they start backing off of that, it's very difficult to set the right tone and, candidly,

make the right decisions," he said. "I might have been firmer in Sandy if it hadn't been for the experience of Irene when I got everybody off the beach and nothing really awful happened there."

Christie, by his own admission, is "not a subtle personality" and he likes to take charge. Those two traits figured prominently in how the rising Republican handled Sandy.

From his frequent, televised updates to residents as

the storm's winds whipped the state's beaches to his criticism last week of fellow Republican John Boehner's decision to delay a U.S. House vote on federal storm aid, his handling of his native state's worst natural disaster may one day be considered the defining moment in the political career of a budding presidential contender.

The timing of the storm—days before a presidential election—ultimately helped define his role in it as well.

Asia

PH police to charge suspect in rampage

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A house caretaker who reloaded the pistol of a man who went on a shooting rampage near Manila that left nine people dead is facing multiple murder charges, officials said Saturday.

John Paul Lopez, who worked for the gunman, Ronald Bae, surrendered to authorities late Friday, hours after the rampage, which left eight victims and the gunman dead, said Cavite provincial deputy police chief Dionicio Borromeo.

Eleven people were wounded in the incident in Cavite province's Kawit township, about 16 kilometers (10 miles) south of Manila.

The carnage occurred just days after the death of a 7-year-old girl who was hit in the head by a stray bullet during New Year's Eve revelry in Manila, sparking public criticism over lax gun control in the Philippines. Friday's rampage fueled pressure for more assertive action by authorities to deal with unlicensed firearms.

"This is really one of the worst shooting incidents in the Philippines, after the Maguindanao massacre," Borromeo said, referring to the November 2009 killing of 54 people, including 32 media workers, allegedly by followers of a powerful political clan in the southern Philippines.

Borromeo said Lopez, 27, explained that Bae, 41, had threatened to kill him if he did not reload bullets into the magazines



Neighbors walk past a lighted candle and a rubber slipper that were placed Saturday Jan. 5, 2013 at the exact spot where a gunman later identified as Ronald Bae was killed by responding police officers after he went on a shooting rampage Friday in Kawit township, Cavite province, about 16 kilometers (10 miles) south of Manila, Philippines.

of a .45-caliber pistol used in the killing spree.

Borromeo, however, said Lopez never tried to stop Bae or talk him out of the rampage, whose victims included a pregnant woman and her young daughter and 7-year-old girl.

"We will file a case against him of multiple murder and multiple frustrated murder," Borromeo said.

He also said the Kawit police chief and his deputy have been relieved of their posts by senior police officials while they are being investigated for allegedly not responding to reports that Bae had fired his weapon behind his house four days earlier. Borromeo said records and officers' testimonies indicated they received no such reports.

It was unclear what triggered

the rampage, but Bae had a "marital problem" with his wife, whom he left in northern Pampanga province and returned to his old home in Kawit for the New Year, Cavite provincial Gov. Jonvic Remulla said.

Bae's wife, Maria Elena, 36, said her husband left their house in Pampanga on Tuesday after a violent confrontation on New Year's Eve when her husband

accused her of having an affair, which she denied.

"He was red in the face. It seemed like he was not himself anymore," she said, adding that he was on drugs.

"I am sorry for what my husband has done," she told reporters at a funeral parlor in Kawit with her husband's remains. Addressing families of the victims, she said, "Please don't blame me."

Bae, who was killed in a shootout with police, had been on a "drug and alcohol binge" with his friends since Wednesday, drinking and taking methamphetamine, Remulla said.

Bae also killed a 7-year old girl and wounded her 2-year-old sister and 4-year-old brother, who is his godson. The three children tried to shield themselves behind seat cushions,

said their uncle Edwin Lacorte. The two children are in serious condition in a hospital.

Abigail Valte, a spokeswoman for President Benigno Aquino III, said the killings "will certainly fuel the efforts of the (Philippine National Police) in its drive against loose firearms."

Police estimate there are about half a million firearms that are either unlicensed or have expired licenses around the country.

The proliferation of firearms has long fueled crime, political violence and Muslim and communist insurgencies that have raged for decades in parts of the country.

Previous attempts by authorities to clamp down on unregistered weapons have yielded little result.

Pakistan says 1 dead in border clash with India

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan and India traded accusations Sunday of violating the boundary line dividing the two sides' forces in the disputed northern region of Kashmir. Pakistan said an Indian cross-border raid on border post killed one of its soldiers, while India said its troops had fired into Pakistan to retaliate for shelling that destroyed a home.

The accusation of a cross-border raid resulting in military deaths is rare in Kashmir where a ceasefire has held between these two wary allies for a decade. Tensions over the disputed region are never far from the surface, however, as the two nuclear-armed nations have fought two full-scale wars over Kashmir.

The Pakistani military's public relations office said in a statement Sunday that another Pakistani soldier was critically wounded in the incident.

They said troops were still exchanging gunfire after a raid crossed the "line of control" dividing the Indian and Pakistani sides of Kashmir in Haji Pir sector and raided a checkpoint called Sawan Patra, the military said.

The remote area where the incident occurred is up in Himalayan mountain peaks.

Col. Brijesh Pandey, a spokesman for the Indian army in Kashmir said that Pakistani troops "initiated unprovoked firing" and fired mortars and automatic weapons at Indian posts early Sunday morning. He said Pakistani shelling had destroyed a civilian home on the Indian side.

"We retaliated only using small arms. We believe it was clearly an attempt on their part to facilitate infiltration of militants," Pandey said.

India often accuses Pakistan of sending militants into the Indian-controlled part of Kashmir, often under cover of these types of skirmishes.

Kashmir is a mountainous region in the northern parts of Indian and Pakistan that has been a flashpoint of violence between these two neighbors for decades.

Both claim the entire region as their own, and the countries fought two full-scale wars over control of Kashmir and some minor skirmishes.

A 2003 cease-fire ended the most recent round of fighting.

Each side occasionally accuses the other of violating it by lobbing mortars or shooting across the LOC, but accusations of cross-border raids are rare.

India gang-rape victim's friend recounts attack

NEW DELHI (AP)—Passers-by refused to stop to help a naked, bleeding gang-rape victim after she was dumped from a bus onto a New Delhi street, and police delayed taking her to a hospital for 30 minutes, the woman's male companion said in an interview. It was his first public account of the gruesome attack that killed the 23-year-old student and prompted demands for reform of a law enforcement culture seen as lax in crimes against women.

The gang-rape victim's brother blamed a delay in medical treatment of nearly two hours for her death last week in a Singapore hospital.

The woman's male companion, who has not been named,

sat in a wheelchair with a broken leg in his interview aired Friday on Indian TV station Zee News. He recounted the 2 1/2 hour rape and beating by a group of men on a bus, which the pair had boarded as they were returning from seeing a movie together.

"I gave a tough fight to three of them. I punched them hard. But then two others hit me with an iron rod," he said. The woman tried to call the police using her mobile phone, but the men took it away from her, he said. They then took her to the rear seats of the bus and one-by-one began raping her, beating and violating her with an iron rod.

Afterward, he overheard

some of the attackers saying the woman was dead before dumping both onto the street, he said.

On Saturday, police officer Vivek Gogia denied the companion's assertion that police officers debated jurisdiction for 30 minutes before taking the rape victim and her friend to a hospital.

In a statement, Gogia said police vans reached the spot where the rape victim and her friend were dumped within three minutes of receiving the alert. "Police vans left the spot for hospital with the victims within 12 minutes," he said.

That time was spent in borrowing bed sheets from a neighboring hotel to cover the naked rape victim and her friend, he said.

Also Saturday, a court asked police to produce five men accused of raping the student for pre-trial proceedings on Monday. Police have charged them with murder, rape and other crimes that could bring them the death penalty.

A sixth suspect, listed as a 17-year-old, was expected to be tried in a juvenile court, where the maximum sentence would be three years in a reform facility.

Prosecutor Rajiv Mohan said the summary received from Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore said the rape victim's death was caused by septicemia and multiple-organ failure, the Press Trust of India news agency said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

British Spitfire search team arrives in Myanmar

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—A search team led by a British aviation enthusiast arrived in Myanmar on Sunday to begin a dig they hope will unearth dozens of rare British Spitfire fighter planes said to have been buried

in the Southeast Asian country at the end of World War II. The 21-member team led by farmer and businessman David Cundall will start excavations soon near the airport in the main city, Yangon. Cundall said the aircraft were buried in wooden crates around 30 feet under the ground and the project would take about

four to six weeks to complete. "We are expecting them to be in first-class condition," Cundall said shortly after arriving at the international airport in Yangon. The Spitfire remains Britain's most famous combat aircraft. Its reputation was cemented during the Battle of Britain when the fast-moving single-seater air-

craft helped beat back waves of German bombers.

Chinese city cuts off water after chemical leak

BEIJING (AP)—Residents in a northern Chinese city are without water after the local government cut off the supply because

of industrial chemicals that contaminated a river. The Handan city government in Hebei province says it cut off the water Saturday afternoon after an accident in neighboring Shanxi province caused pollutants to pour into a river. It didn't say how many residents were affected. The population of the city and its rural areas is

9 million. Xinhua News Agency said Sunday that a loose drainage valve in a chemical plant was to blame for the leaking of nearly 9 tons of the chemical aniline into the river. It said another 30 tons of aniline have been contained in a disused reservoir. Aniline, used in manufacturing polyurethane, can be toxic to humans.

World

Syrian president to give speech Sunday

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrian President Bashar Assad will deliver a speech on Sunday in a rare address to the nation, state media said, as rebels fighting to topple his embattled regime pressed ahead with an offensive on the capital.

The official SANA news

agency said in a brief statement Saturday that Assad will speak about the latest developments in Syria. The speech would be the first by the leader since June, and comes amid intense fighting between government troops and rebels on the outskirts of Damascus.

Assad has rarely spoken in public since the uprising against him began in March 2011. In each of his previous speeches and interviews, the president has dug in his heels even as Western powers have moved to boost the opposition in Syria's civil war.

In his last public comments, Assad vowed in an interview with Russia Today on Nov. 8 that he would "live and die in Syria."

Fighting has raged for weeks in the neighborhoods and towns around Damascus that have been opposition strongholds since the Syrian revolt began.

The uprising started with peaceful protests but morphed into a civil war that has killed more than 60,000 people, according to a recent United Nations recent estimate.

The rebels are trying to push through the government's heavy defenses in Damascus, prompting the regime to unleash a withering assault on the suburbs that has included intense barrages by artillery and warplanes.

Diplomatic efforts to end the Syrian crisis have failed so far to bring an end to the bloodshed, although the international community continues to push for a peaceful settlement.

On Saturday, Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal told reporters after a meeting with his Egyptian counterpart in Riyadh that there should be an immediate end to the bloodshed in Syria and called for a peaceful political transition.

Saudi Arabia and Egypt have both called on Assad to step down, and Riyadh has also been an outspoken supporter of the rebels.

The president of the U.N. Security Council said Thursday there are important develop-

ments in efforts to find a diplomatic solution to the 21-month conflict in Syria and there could be another U.S.-Russia meeting with international envoy Lakhdar Brahimi next week.

Brahimi and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov both said after their meeting last Saturday that the Syrian crisis can only be settled through talks, while admitting that neither the government nor the opposition has shown a desire to compromise. Neither official hinted at a possible solution that would persuade the two sides to agree to a ceasefire and sit down for talks about a political transition.

But Lavrov said Syrian President Bashar Assad has no intention of stepping down - a key opposition demand - and it would be impossible to try to persuade him otherwise. Russia is a close ally of the Syrian government, and has shielded it from punitive measures at the U.N.

It was not clear what kind of initiative, if any, Assad may offer in his speech.

Meanwhile the violence continued unabated Saturday.



In this Sunday, Aug. 19, 2012 file photo released by the Syrian official news agency SANA, Syrian president, Bashar Assad, performs Eid prayers in the Hamad Mosque in Damascus, Syria.

Hugo Chavez's allies re-elect legislative chief

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Allies of cancer-stricken President Hugo Chavez on Saturday chose to keep the same National Assembly president—a man who could be in line to step in as a caretaker leader in some circumstances.

The vote to retain Diosdado Cabello as legislative leader signaled the ruling party's desire to stress unity and continuity amid growing signs the government plans to postpone Chavez's inauguration for a new term while

he fights a severe respiratory infection nearly a month after cancer surgery in Cuba.

The opposition and some legal experts have argued that if Chavez is unable to be sworn in as scheduled on Thursday, the president of the National Assembly should take over on an interim basis.

Cabello's selection quashed speculation about possible political reshuffling in the midst of Chavez's health crisis, and it came as Vice President Nicolas

Maduro joined other allies in suggesting that Chavez could remain president and take the oath of office before the Supreme Court later on if he isn't fit to be sworn in on the scheduled date.

"It strikes me that the government has decided to put things on hold, to wait and see what happens with Chavez's health and other political factors, and figure out the best way to insure continuity," said Michael Shifter, president of the Inter-

American Dialogue think tank in Washington. "Maduro and Cabello are clearly the key players within Chavismo today, each heading separate factions, but for the time being the idea is to reaffirm both and project a sense of unity."

Cabello, a former military officer who is widely considered to wield influence in the military, was re-elected by a show of hands by Chavez's allies, who hold a majority of the 165 congressional seats.

Rebels in C. African Republic seize another town

BANGUI, Central African Republic (AP)—Rebels in Central African Republic seized control of another town on Saturday, just days before they are to begin negotiations with the government in nearby Gabon.

Alindao town was taken by rebels of the Seleka alliance, who now control 11 cities and towns, according to residents of a nearby community.

"In the early morning hours the attackers burst into Alindao without meeting any resistance from the Central African armed

forces," said Jean Balipio, speaking by telephone from the neighboring town of Bangassou.

Alindao is not on the path to Bangui, the capital of 700,000 which is heavily fortified by Chadian troops and other forces sent from neighboring countries. Alindao is located about 75 miles (120 kilometers) from Bambari, the third largest city which is already under rebel control.

The insurgents have taken 11 towns and cities within a month. They had previously said they

would halt their advances pending talks with President Francois Bozize's government, which are set to begin in Gabon on Tuesday. The new move by rebels on Saturday casts doubt on the possible success of the talks. Already the rebels said they are seeking Bozize's departure but the president said he does not intend to leave office before his term ends in 2016.

On Friday, the United Nations Security Council urged the rebels to withdraw from the towns they hold and take part in

the negotiations in Libreville, Gabon "without preconditions and in good faith."

Pakistan's U.N. Ambassador Masood Khan, the current council president who read the press statement, was asked whether the talks would definitely take place given uncertainty about participation of all the rebels in the alliance and other groups.

"Right now preparations are being made and we're hoping the talks will take place—and all parties are being urged in that direction," Khan said.

WORLD BRIEFS

Israel leader appeals for right-wing votes

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is appealing to his right-wing base to cast ballots for his election list, as opposed to a pro-settler alternative, to prevent his being unseated by a potential center-left coalition. Netanyahu's rare interviews to Israel Radio and Army Radio on Sunday come after polls show significant of voters withdrawing support for his Likud Beiteinu list and redirecting it to a pro-settlement party, Jewish Home. That's left Netanyahu more vulnerable ahead of the Jan. 22 vote. But while polls show support for Likud Beiteinu dropping, respondents at the same time overwhelmingly choose Netanyahu for prime minister.

Missoni scion on plane missing in Venezuela

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Rescue crews used boats and aircraft on Saturday to search for a small plane that disappeared off Venezuela carrying the CEO of Italy's iconic Missoni fashion house and five other people. But more than a day after the BN-2 Islander aircraft disappeared from radar screens on its short flight from the Venezuelan resort islands of Los Roques to Caracas, no sign of the plane had been found, officials said. "We have no other news" about the plane carrying 58-year-old Vittorio Missoni, the head of the company; his wife, Maurizia Castiglioni; two of their Italian friends; and two Venezuelan crew members, said Paolo Marchetti, a Missoni SpA official. He spoke briefly to reporters as he left company headquarters in the northern Italian town of Sumirago on Saturday afternoon.

Canadian who sheltered Americans in Iran dies

TORONTO (AP)—John Sheardown, a former Canadian diplomat who sheltered fugitive American Embassy staffers at his Tehran home at great personal risk during the 1979 Iran hostage crisis, has died. He was 88. His wife Zena said Saturday that Sheardown passed away in an Ottawa hospital on Dec. 30. She says he had been treated for Alzheimer's disease for the past four years but also suffered from other ailments. Sheardown, the First Secretary at the Canadian Embassy in Tehran at the time of the Islamic Revolution, played a key role in the events depicted in Ben Affleck's Oscar-contender film "Argo," although he was not portrayed in the film. Almost a week after militant Iranian radicals seized the U.S. Embassy in Tehran on November 4, 1979, taking 52 Americans hostage for 444 days in retaliation for U.S. support for the recently deposed shah, the Canadian diplomat received a call from one of the six Americans who had managed to evade capture. American consular officer Robert Anders was calling his friend Sheardown for help.

Focus

General's battle with PTSD leads him to the brink

By **KRISTEN GELINEAU**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SYDNEY (AP)—In the exploding hell of battle, a single hand poked through the earth.

John Cantwell could see the ridges and calluses of the skin, and the pile of desert sand that had swallowed the rest of the Iraqi soldier. The troops Cantwell was fighting alongside in the Gulf War had used bulldozing tanks to bury the man alive.

This hand—so jarringly human amid the cold mechanics of bombs and anonymous enemies—was about to wedge itself, the Australian man would write decades later, “like a splinter under the skin of my soul.” It would lead, along with other battlefield horrors, to the splintering of his mind and to a locked psychiatric ward. And it would lead to the abrupt end of a 38-year military career that saw him ascend to remarkable heights as the commander of Australia’s 1,500 troops in Afghanistan.

In the process, Maj. Gen. Cantwell would become two people: a competent warrior on the outside. A cowering wreck on the inside.

He hid his agony to survive, to protect his loved ones and—he admits it—to pursue professional glory. But in the end, the man with two selves found he had lost himself completely.

A disheartening number of veterans suffer post-traumatic stress disorder. What made Cantwell so extraordinary was his ability to hide his escalating pain for so long, while simultaneously soaring through the military’s ranks—eventually taking charge of an entire nation’s troops in a war zone.

But the higher he climbed, the farther he fell into the abyss of mental illness.

“I became an excellent actor,” he says, 20 years into his battle with PTSD and going public for the first time with the release of his autobiography, “Exit Wounds.”

“It did, though, come at a price. It was like pressure building in a hose and you finally release the tap.”

And when that tap was opened, Cantwell nearly drowned.

IRAQ

He had practically begged his way onto the battlefield.

In 1974, he joined Australia’s Army as a 17-year-old private, after a childhood spent worshipping Vietnam veterans and poring over military-themed comic books. He ended up on exchange with the British Army, and two years later, the Gulf War erupted. Cantwell hounded

his superiors for his first chance at combat. “Be careful what you wish for, John,” one warned him. But on Dec. 17, 1990, he said goodbye to his wife and two sons and headed to the Persian Gulf.

It was exciting at first—the strategizing, the explosions, the sense of being part of something big. He whooped with victory alongside his comrades when bombs blew apart Iraqi artillery.

Then came the hand.

Cantwell stared at it as his tank rolled past. He had been unnerved by the plan for American troops to bulldoze over a network of trenches hiding Iraqi soldiers, but had said nothing. Now he wondered: Had the soldier been reaching for help when he was entombed?

The U.S. Defense Department would later defend the operation as a necessity of war, arguing that the Iraqis who were killed had chosen to stay in the trenches and fight. The Defense Department’s former spokesman, Pete Williams, told reporters at the time: “There is no nice way to kill somebody in war. War is hell.”

On the battlefield, there was no time to process it. Cantwell was a warrior, and this was war. He pushed forward.

The horrors piled up. He saw the twisted, charred remains of men. He fought to stay calm when several small bombs exploded under his vehicle. Inside a blood-and-excrement-smeared torture chamber in a former Iraqi headquarters, he saw a drill, hammers, pliers and rope. He imagined the screams of the victims.

Through it all, he knew he must remain focused. That was what he had been trained to do, and he did. But there were moments when he felt something gnawing at him.

He was looking for survivors near a blown-out truck when he spotted the first head lying in the sand. A second head lay nearby, one eye staring back at him, a scarf still wrapped around the remains of the neck.

Cantwell felt an overwhelming compulsion to put the men back together.

With sweaty hands, he lifted the second head by the scarf and carried it over to its former body. He grabbed the other head by the hair and placed it alongside the shoulders to which it had once been attached.

Then he climbed into his tank, and got back to the business of war.

AUSTRALIA

Cantwell was falling apart.

The nightmares arrived swift and brutal upon his return to Australia. In them, the hand summons him. He falls to his



In this undated photo provided by Maj. Gen. John Cantwell, the general poses for a photo in Afghanistan at an undisclosed location.

AP

across a wall. Two tiny pink sandals lay on the ground below the stain. One floated in a pool of blood, the wind turning it in a circle.

Cantwell knew the dead child’s sandals would join the hand in his nightmares.

He grew bitter and disillusioned. The job left little time for sleep. When he did, the nightmares were grislier than ever.

An officer asked one morning if he was OK. Cantwell assured him: “I’m fine.”

He wasn’t. But before he left Baghdad, he was promoted to major general and appointed Deputy Chief of the Australian Army.

AUSTRALIA

Jane was stricken by her husband’s appearance when he returned home. He was exhausted and sick.

The guilt of the soldiers’ deaths from the roadside bomb was eating at him. Jane tried to assure him he was not responsible. He ignored her. In his mind, it would always be his fault.

He quietly visited another psychiatrist who put him on medication. It did little to help.

The pressure of pretending was almost unbearable.

AFGHANISTAN

Cantwell stared at the two flag-draped caskets before him. Inside lay the first Australians to die in Afghanistan since Cantwell had taken command of Australia’s forces in the Middle East.

They had been his responsibility. Now they were dead, torn apart in an explosion.

At their memorial, he spoke of bravery and sacrifice. Many in the audience cried. He strangled his own misery into silence.

After the service, he climbed on board the plane bound for the morgue and sat next to the caskets, thinking about the men inside. His warrior self tried to reject the nagging feeling that they had died because of him. He tried to think rationally: He had done his best.

But the line between his two selves was disintegrating. He began to cry. A friend on board asked if he was OK.

Cantwell could not answer.

AUSTRALIA

He wondered if all the bloodshed was worth it.

He was at the beach on vacation with Jane. But he was detached from everyone and everything.

There were rumors he was up for a promotion to Chief of the Army when he was summoned to the nation’s capital to give his debrief on Afghanistan.

He donned the warrior mask

one last time. He appeared calm, made jokes.

When it was over, his superior asked him how he was really doing.

Cantwell surrendered. He said: I am not OK. I am not sleeping. I am not who you think I am. Please tell the chief of the defense force.

Cantwell told the chief himself that he could not take the job. The chief understood.

His truth exposed, Cantwell hoped the worst was over. It was not. On a train, he was so startled by the conductor calling out for tickets that he shouted in terror. The other passengers laughed. He cried.

A psychiatrist finally asked: Had he thought of suicide?

He answered: Yes.

The pressure that had been building for 20 years was at bursting point.

Cantwell let go.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■
A pajama-clad woman in the psychiatric ward asked the general why he was there.

He wondered, too.

He had checked himself into this hospital, knowing he was broken. Still, he argued with himself: What is a major general doing here?

The doctors changed his medication, and he attended regular counseling sessions. One night, he only had one horrible dream—an improvement.

He left after a week of intense treatment. A few months later, he retired. He and Jane moved to a peaceful coastal community, where he continues his therapy.

He doesn’t regret his career. Australia’s Defense Chief Gen. David Hurley said Cantwell’s courageous decision to go public has already encouraged other members of the military to come forward with their own struggles.

But speaking out isn’t easy. Military personnel often fear the stigma of mental illness will ruin their careers, and they worry that people will think they are not fit to lead, says Matthew Friedman, executive director of the U.S. Department of Veteran’s Affairs National Center for PTSD.

To Cantwell, soldiers are simply not conditioned to expose their pain.

“We’ve instilled in them this idea of physical and mental toughness—that’s how they win wars, that’s how we win wars,” Cantwell says. “We expect that same person with the self-image of a warrior—someone who is tough and imperturbable and able to shrug off pain and difficult environments and horror and get on with their job—suddenly we expect them to turn

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Health & Fitness

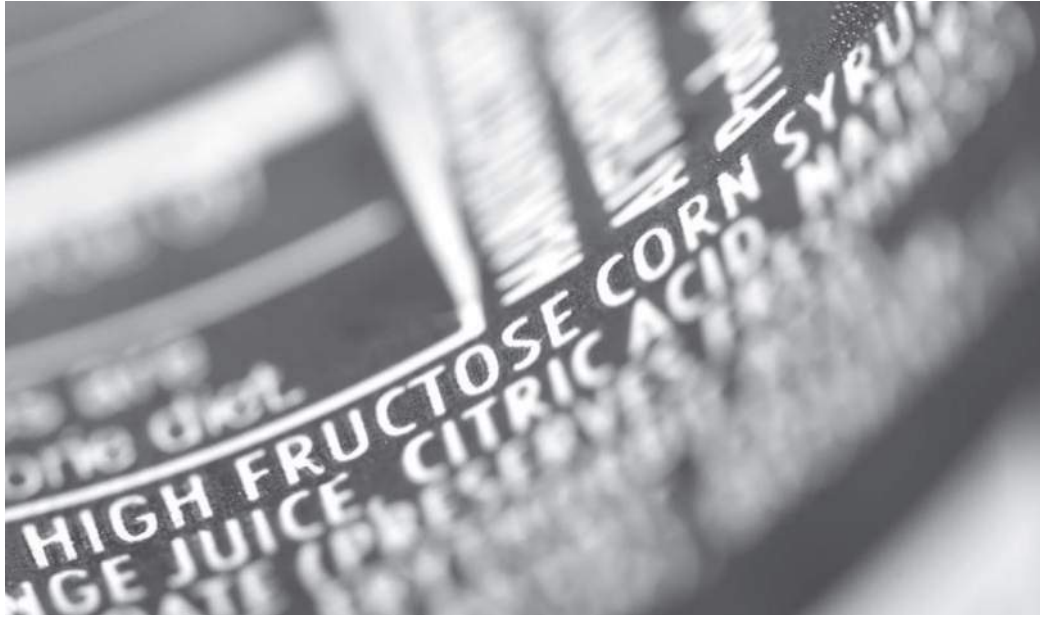
Brain image study: Fructose may spur overeating

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP MEDICAL WRITERS

This is your brain on sugar—for real. Scientists have used imaging tests to show for the first time that fructose, a sugar that saturates the American diet, can trigger brain changes that may lead to overeating.

After drinking a fructose beverage, the brain doesn't register the feeling of being full as it does when simple glucose is consumed, researchers found.

It's a small study and does not prove that fructose or its relative, high-fructose corn syrup, can cause obesity, but experts say it adds evidence they may play a role. These sugars often are added to processed foods and beverages, and consumption has risen dramatically since the 1970s along with obesity. A third of U.S. children and teens



In this Sept. 15, 2011, file photo, high fructose corn syrup is listed as an ingredient on a can of soda in Philadelphia. Scientists have used imaging tests to show for the first time that fructose, a sugar that saturates the American diet, can trigger brain changes that may lead to overeating. The study, in the Journal of the American Medical Association on Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2013, is a small study and does not prove that fructose or its relative, high-fructose corn syrup, can cause obesity, but experts say it adds evidence they may play a role.

and more than two-thirds of adults are obese or overweight.

All sugars are not equal—even though they contain the same amount of calories—because they are metabolized differently in the body. Table sugar is sucrose, which is half fructose, half glucose. High-fructose corn syrup is 55 percent fructose and 45 percent glucose. Some nutrition experts say this sweetener may pose special risks, but others and the industry reject that claim. And doctors say we eat too much sugar in all forms.

For the study, scientists used magnetic resonance imaging, or MRI, scans to track blood flow in the brain in 20 young, normal-weight people before and after they had drinks containing glucose or fructose in two sessions several weeks apart.

Scans showed that drinking glucose “turns off or suppresses the activity of areas of the brain that are critical for reward and desire for food,” said one study leader, Yale University endocrinologist Dr. Robert Sherwin. With fructose, “we don’t see those changes,” he said. “As a result, the desire to eat continues—it isn’t turned off.”

What’s convincing, said Dr. Jonathan Purnell, an endocri-

nologist at Oregon Health & Science University, is that the imaging results mirrored how hungry the people said they felt, as well as what earlier studies found in animals.

“It implies that fructose, at least with regards to promoting food intake and weight gain, is a bad actor compared to glucose,” said Purnell. He wrote a commentary that appears with the federally funded study in Wednesday’s Journal of the American Medical Association.

Researchers now are testing obese people to see if they react the same way to fructose and glucose as the normal-weight people in this study did.

What to do? Cook more at home and limit processed foods containing fructose and high-fructose corn syrup, Purnell suggested. “Try to avoid the sugar-sweetened beverages. It doesn’t mean you can’t ever have them,” but control their size and how often they are consumed, he said.

A second study in the journal suggests that only severe obesity carries a high death risk—and that a few extra pounds might even provide a survival advantage. However, independent experts say the methods are too flawed to make those claims.

Poll: Fight obesity crisis but keep the junk food

WASHINGTON (AP)—Everyone could use a little help keeping those New Year’s resolutions to slim down. But if it means the government limiting junk food, the response is an overwhelming, “No.”

Americans call obesity a national health crisis and blame too much screen time and cheap fast food for fueling it. But a new poll finds people are split on how much the government should do to help—and most draw the line at attempts to force healthier eating.

A third of people say the government should be deeply involved in finding solutions to the epidemic. A similar proportion want it to play little or no role, and the rest are somewhere in the middle, according to the poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Require more physical activity in school, or provide nutritional guidelines to help people make better choices? Sure, 8 in 10 support those steps. Make restaurants post calorie counts on their menus, as the Food and

Drug Administration is poised to do? Some 70 percent think it’s a good idea.

“That’s a start,” said Khadijah Al-Amin, 52, of Coatesville, Pa. “The fat content should be put up there in red letters, not just put up there. The same way they mark something that’s poisonous, so when you see it, you absolutely know.”

But nearly 6 in 10 people surveyed oppose taxes targeting unhealthy foods, known as soda taxes or fat taxes.

And when it comes to restricting what people can buy—like New York City’s recent ban of supersized sodas in restaurants—three-quarters say, “No way.”

“The outlawing of sugary drinks, that’s just silly,” said Keith Donner, 52, of Miami, who prefers teaching school-children to eat better and get moving.

“People should just look at a Big Gulp and say, ‘That’s not for me.’ I think it starts when they are young and at school,” he added.

Despite the severity of the

problem, most of those surveyed say dealing with obesity is up to individuals. Just a third consider obesity a community problem that governments, schools, health care providers and the food industry should be involved in. Twelve percent said it will take work from both individuals and the community.

That finding highlights the dilemma facing public health experts: Societal changes in recent decades have helped spur growing waistlines, and now a third of U.S. children and teens and two-thirds of adults are either overweight or obese. Today, restaurants dot more street corners and malls, regular-sized portions are larger, and a fast-food meal can be cheaper than healthier fare. Not to mention electronic distractions that slightly more people surveyed blamed for obesity than fast food.

In the current environment, it’s difficult to exercise that personal responsibility, said Jeff Levi of the nonprofit Trust for America’s Health, which has closely tracked the rise in obesity.

“We need to create environ-

ments where the healthy choice becomes the easy choice, where it’s possible for people to bear that responsibility,” he said.

The new poll suggests women, who have major input on what a family eats, recognize those societal and community difficulties more than men do.

Personal Trainer

Throwing a football well

A spiraling football pass is a thing of beauty, and learning to throw one takes long practice, but these are the basic skills:



1 Grip

Spread fingers lightly across laces

Thumb, forefinger form “U” holding end of ball

Grip firmly with thumb, middle and ring fingers

3 Start throw

Turn hips, then torso, then shoulders toward target

Cock ball behind your ear, with its nose pointed behind you



4 End and release

Move arm overhead; forearm crosses over elbow as hand extends in direction of throw



Let go with thumb so fingertips can make ball spiral

Wrist-flick: Crucial to good spiral; turn hand and wrist to increase spin; palm faces ground as you follow through

Source: Men’s Fitness
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas,
Paul Trap

© 2013 MCT

GENERAL

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around and open up? It just doesn’t work.”

He sits at his computer and reaches for the mouse. There is a click as a button attached to the bracelet he wears hits the table. He wove it out of parachute cord as a reminder of the 10 men who died under his command in Afghanistan.

He insists the bracelet is not a punishment but a mark of respect. Maybe it is both.

■ ■ ■ ■

How are you feeling today, John?

His answer is now honest:

Not good.

His sleep has been tormented by the usual nightmares. Upon waking, he sees the headline that another Australian soldier has died in Afghanistan.

His stomach drops. He knows these feelings may never go away. He hopes he can eventually forgive himself for the men who died under his command. But he never wants to forget.

“One day I’m hoping to be able to touch on these emotions, experience them and yet not let them get their hooks into me,” he says. “That’ll come one day. One day.”

Until then, he will focus on rebuilding himself—his real self. He wants to learn to

sail and scuba dive. He wants to write and paint and draw (“something a bit creative rather than destructive,” he says with a chuckle.) Maybe he’ll work with veterans, or become a mental health advocate.

Not long ago, he turned 56. He wanted to celebrate with a trip to the beach, but driving a car brings flashbacks of car bombers in Iraq. So he and Jane hopped on his motorcycle and roared down the road. At a surf club, they grabbed seats on the deck. The general clutched a cold beer.

“Life is pretty good,” he thought, watching the waves roll in. “Despite everything—life is pretty good.”

Life & Style

Adele's 2011 holdover '21' still tops in 2012

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)—Turns out Adele ruled 2012, too—and set a record while she was at it.

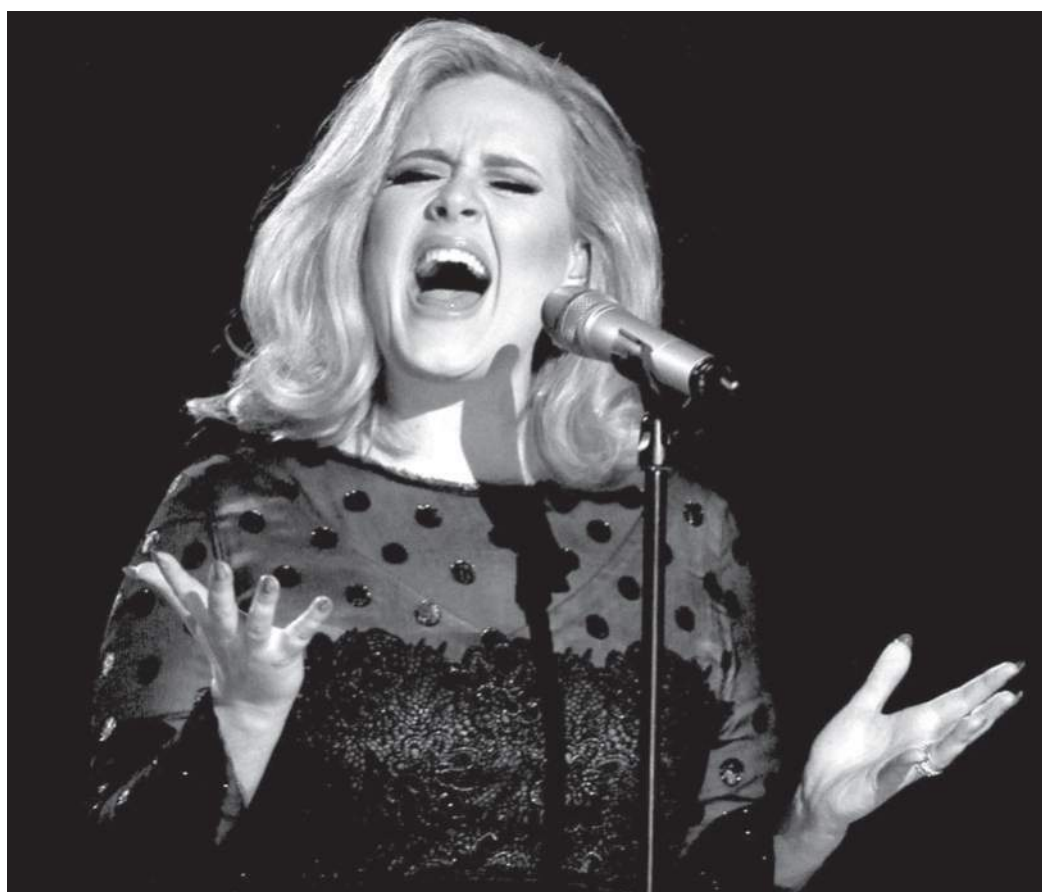
The British singer's "21" was the highest-selling album in the U.S. for the second consecutive year, according to 2012 sales figures released by Nielsen SoundScan on Thursday. That's a first in the SoundScan era.

Adele sold 4.4 million copies of the album in 2012 after selling 5.8 million in 2011. She crossed the 10 million threshold in November and was only rivaled by Taylor Swift, whose "Red" was second on the list. If her album sales continue apace in 2013, "21" will move into the top 10 list for sales since 1993, when SoundScan began current tracking methods.

Gotye scored the year's top-selling song with "Somebody That I Used To Know" featuring Kimbra. The song was downloaded a record 6.8 million times. Carly Rae Jepsen's "Call Me Maybe" was next at 6.5 million. Both songs are the first to cross the 6 million digital sales mark, while fun. came close with 5.9 million downloads of "We Are Young" featuring Janelle Monae.

Forty-one songs crossed the 2 million download mark, helping drive digital and overall sales to a new high even as album sales began to drop again after a momentary gain.

A record 1.65 billion music



In this Feb. 12, 2012 file photo, Adele performs during the 54th annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles. AP

units—combining physical albums, digital albums and digital songs—were sold in 2012, fueled by an increase of 9.1 percent in total digital sales and a 14.1 percent increase in digital album sales.

Overall, however, album sales declined 4.4 percent. That continues a downward trend since 2004 that was only briefly halted by last year's 3 percent

gain—mostly due to the surprise success of "21." Only two genres showed album sales gains in 2012. Rock gained by 2 percent and country, fueled by the format's assault on the top 10, jumped 4.2 percent.

Swift led a record five country artists into the top 10, selling 3.1 million copies of "Red" in just over two months. Other country artists on the list included Car-

rie Underwood's "Blown Away" at No. 7 (1.2 million) followed by Luke Bryan's "tailgates & tanlines" (1.1 million), Lionel Richie's duets album "Tuskegee" (1 million) and Jason Aldean's "Night Train" (1 million).

One Direction nearly matched Swift's sales total, but did it by placing two 2012 releases in the top 10—"Up All Night" placed No. 3 with 1.6 million sold and

"Take Me Home" was fifth with 1.3 million.

Mumford & Son's "Babel" at No. 6 (1.4 million) and Justin Bieber's "Believe" at No. 6 (1.3 million) round out the top 10. Only 10 albums reached 1 mil-

lion in sales.

Katy Perry received the most radio airplay for the second year in a row with 1.4 million spins, while Swift was the most streamed artist at 216 million streams.

Pacino says he didn't want to meet Spector

PASADENA, California

(AP)—Al Pacino said Friday that he decided not to meet famed record producer and convicted killer Phil Spector before portraying him in an HBO movie—only to find he already had.

A friend showed Pacino a 20-year-old photo in which the actor was standing next to Spector. Pacino said he has no memory of the moment.

The movie, "Phil Spector," debuts in March. It focuses on the client-attorney relationship between Spector and Linda Kenney Baden, who represented him in his first trial after he was charged with the murder of actress Lana Clarkson. That ended in a mistrial, but Spector was convicted in a second trial and is now serving 19 years to life in prison.

Pacino wore a dizzying array of wigs in his portrayal of the eccentric Spector, whose "Wall of Sound" style was an integral part of pop music in

the early 1960s. The actor said he decided not to meet Spector in prison because he'd be a different man than the one Pacino is portraying, who had not yet been convicted of a crime.

He watched video clips of Spector to help him with his portrayal.

"I didn't know anything about him, except that he was responsible for a lot of great music and this strange case," Pacino said.

Helen Mirren, who portrayed Baden, said she heard stories about Spector from her filmmaker husband, Taylor Hackford, who had hired Spector to provide music for his 1980 film, "The Idolmaker."

The Academy Award-winning Mirren was a last-minute substitute in her role. Bette Midler had begun filming as Baden, but had to withdraw because of a bad back. The film's executive producers are Barry Levinson and David Mamet.

'McDreamy' says he beat Starbucks for coffee chain

SEATTLE (AP)—"Grey's Anatomy" star Patrick Dempsey may be the real "McSteamy."

The actor, who was dubbed "McDreamy" as a star of the hospital drama while his co-star was called "McSteamy," may soon be serving hot, steaming cups of Joe.

Dempsey won a bankruptcy auction to buy Tully's Coffee, a small coffee chain based in Seattle. Among those he beat out is Tully's much bigger Seattle neighbor, Starbucks Corp., which is known for its ubiquitous white cups with a circular green mermaid logo.

Dempsey, whose company Global Baristas LLC plans to keep the Tully's name, declared victory on the social media site Twitter: "We met the green monster, looked her in the eye, and...SHE BLINKED! We got it! Thank you Seattle!"

The win for Dempsey deals a rare setback for Starbucks on its home turf. Starbucks has long been both praised for bringing "coffeehouse culture" to the U.S. and criticized for crushing smaller chains. The coffee giant, which had planned to con-

vert the Tully's cafes to its own brand, last month announced plans to expand its global footprint to 20,000 cafes over the next two years, up from the current 18,000.

Dempsey said in an interview on Friday that as the underdog in Seattle, Tully's will need to find its identity.

"It's a much smaller chain that has a lot of potential that hasn't been given the proper care," he said.

But in a statement shortly after the auction on Thursday, Starbucks insinuated that Dempsey shouldn't celebrate just yet.

Starbucks, which wanted to convert the Tully's cafes to its own brand, said that a final determination on the winning bid won't be made until a court hearing on Jan. 11. Starbucks said it's in a "back-up" position to buy 25 of the 47 Tully's cafes, with another undisclosed bidder making an offer for the remainder.

The combined bids of Starbucks and the undisclosed bidder come to \$10.6 million, above the \$9.2 million



In this June 28, 2011 file photo, actor Patrick Dempsey attends the "Transformers: Dark of the Moon" premiere in Times Square in New York. AP

Dempsey's company is offering to pay through his company, which was formed in order to purchase Tully's. The other investors in Global Baristas aren't

being disclosed.

Tully's Coffee, which is known for serving Joe with a milder taste than Starbucks brand, filed for bankruptcy pro-

tection in October, citing lease obligations and underperforming stores. Tully's wholesale business, which includes Tully's Coffee in bags and single serve K-cup packs that are sold in supermarkets and other stores, is owned separately by Green Mountain Coffee Roasters Inc.

TC Global Inc., the parent company of Tully's, said in a release Friday that it was "encouraged and excited" about Dempsey's commitment to the chain.

Tully's President and CEO Scott Pearson called the deal a "great match" and that the goal is to make sure creditors get paid and to keep as many people employed as possible.

Dempsey said he planned to be very involved in the running of the company, adding that the immediate challenges were to address bookkeeping issues, staff morale and sprucing up the coffee shops. Once the business is stabilized, Dempsey said the long-term goal would be to take the chain national.

"We can pull this off. We just have to take steps that are slow and smart," he said. "I'm going to get behind the counter. I'm

going to serve coffee...I'm going to give the company a boost of energy."

Although Dempsey lives in Los Angeles, he plans to spend more time in Seattle, the city where "Grey's Anatomy" is set in. Dempsey said he believed there is room in the city for Tully's and the much larger Starbucks; he noted there might be people who are rooting for the underdog.

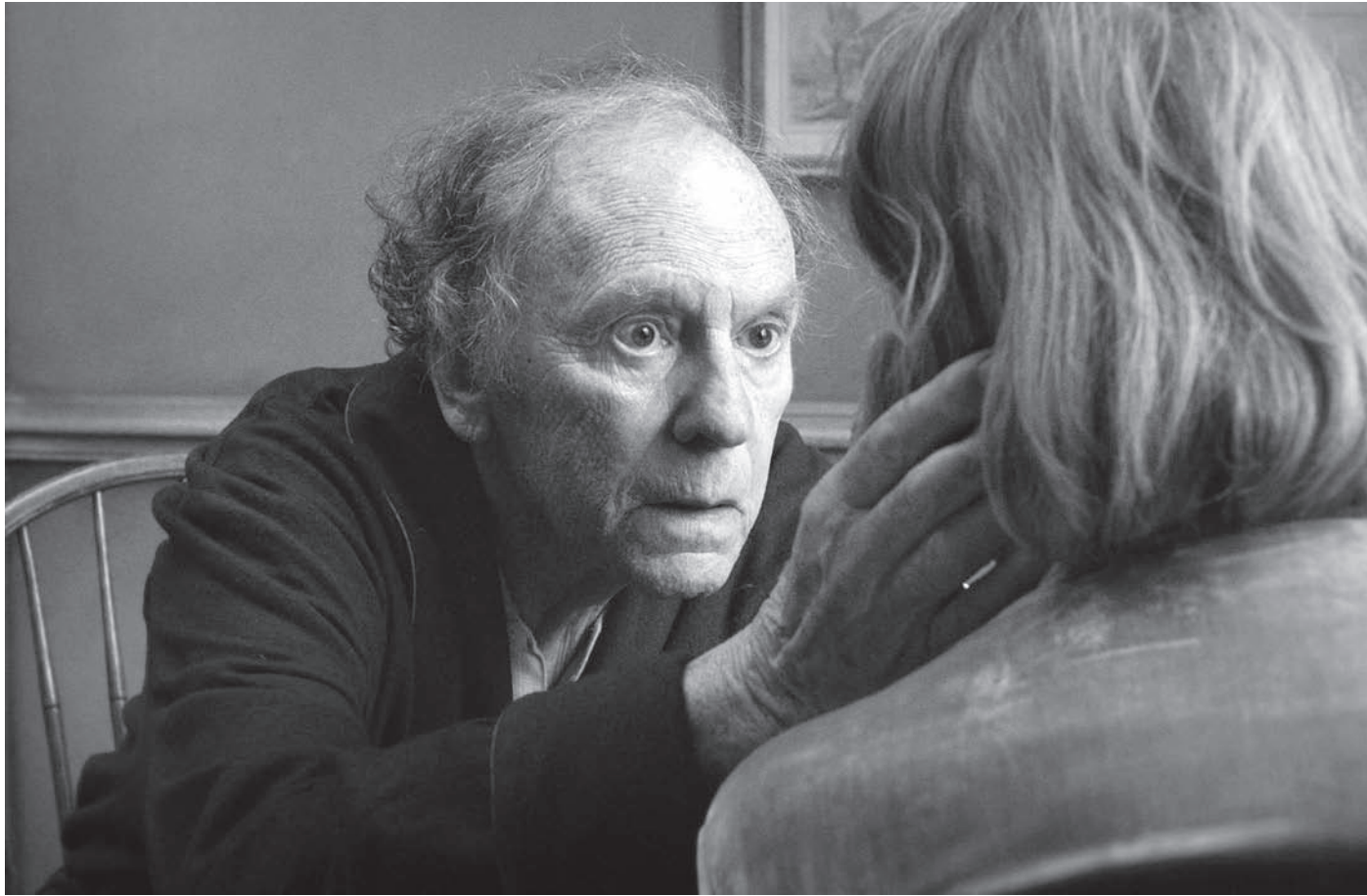
"In a society where there are so many big corporations that swallow the little guy, we thought, let's not let this happen to this company," he said.

Dempsey made an appearance Friday morning at a Tully's near Pike Place Market, shaking hands with workers and greeting customers before visiting other stores. Several dozen people, mostly women, came into the store.

Patrease Estelle, 45, works nearby, and came in with a small group from her office.

"I will take whatever I can get. A photo, a hug, a 'hey, how you doing,' a wink," said Estelle, who got a picture and handshake with the actor.

Critics pick 'Amour' as the best film of 2012



This undated film image released by Sony Pictures Classics shows Jean-Louis Trintignant in a scene from the Austrian film, "Amour." AP

NEW YORK (AP)—The National Society of Film Critics selected "Amour" as the best picture of 2012 during its annual meeting Saturday.

The critics chose the star of "Amour," Emmanuelle Riva, as the best actress, and Daniel Day-Lewis was chosen best actor for "Lincoln."

The group of 60 prominent movie critics from around the country met at Lincoln Center in New York City to make its picks.

Austrian director Michael Haneke won best director for "Amour." The French-language movie depicts the slow deterioration of the elderly woman played by Riva. It has been praised as an unflinching look at old age and life's end.

Playwright Tony Kushner won

best screenplay for "Lincoln."

Amy Adams was chosen best supporting actress for "The Master," and Matthew McConaughey was selected best supporting actor for "Magic Mike" and "Bernie."

The prize for best nonfiction film went to "The Gatekeepers," director Dror Moreh's exploration of intelligence operations by Israel's Shin Bet security agency.

Mihai Malaimaire was honored for best cinematography for "The Master."

The film critics' society, founded in 1966, works to promote film preservation and historically important movies.

This year's awards were dedicated to the late Village Voice critic Andrew Sarris, a founding member of the society, who died last year.

'Lincoln,' 'Argo' earn Writers Guild nominations

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Lincoln" and "Zero Dark Thirty" are adding to their front-runner status for Hollywood's awards season.

The two dramas earned nominations from the Writers Guild on Friday for outstanding screen writing.

"Lincoln" is up for adapted screenplay, along with "Argo," "Silver Linings Playbook," "Life of Pi" and "The Perks of Being a Wallflower."

"Zero Dark Thirty" was nominated for original screen-

play, along with "Flight," "Looper," "The Master" and "Moonrise Kingdom."

In the documentary category, "The Central Park Five," "The Invisible War," "Mea Maxima Culpa," "West of Memphis," "We Are Legion: The Story of the Hacktivists," and "Searching for Sugar Man" earned nominations.

Winners will be announced during simultaneous ceremonies in New York and Los Angeles on Feb. 17.

Actress says making 'Texas Chainsaw 3D' was a scream

By **CONNIE OGLE**
THE MIAMI HERALD

MIAMI—If you've seen the trailer for "Texas Chainsaw 3D," then you've seen Alexandra Daddario hide in a coffin to evade a psycho killer. And if you think that's not frightening, you're wrong.

"That's a very scary thing to think about, being trapped in a coffin," says Daddario, 26, in town recently to promote the film—a sequel to 1974's gritty "Texas Chainsaw Massacre." "And it's scary to shoot."

The new film takes place decades after the first murders. A young woman (Daddario) travels to Texas to claim an inheritance—and meets up with a chain-saw-wielding lunatic instead.

A veteran of such films as "Percy Jackson and The Olympians: The Lightning Thief" and "Hall Pass" and such TV series as "White Collar" and "Parenthood," Daddario was thrilled to work with some of the original film's actors—including Gunnar Hansen, who played everybody's 1970s nightmare, Leatherface.

"It was an honor, really, to have them want to be part of this film," she says.

Q. Had you seen the original movie before accepting the role?

A. I had not ... but I watched it in preparation when I booked the part. I was blown away. It's totally creepy, made by locals on a shoestring budget. (Director Tobe Hooper) had a vision for what he wanted to do. The



Director John Luessenhop, right, with Alexandra Daddario on the set of "Texas Chainsaw 3D." LIONSGATE/MCT

first scene is such a terrifying sequence, and it just gets scarier from there. You can see why Leatherface is so iconic.

Q. Do you need to see the original before watching this movie?

A. There are so many nods to the original story. That's really exciting for people who are familiar with the first movie. But it definitely stands on its own.

Q. You are also part of the "Percy Jackson" franchise. Do you try to seek out such different roles?

A. I've been lucky to do a variety of different roles. I've worked with the Farrellys and Chris Columbus on the "Percy Jackson" movies, which I love being a part of.

I really like playing strong characters. But doing horror films, I find it stretches you as an actor. You reach a level of emotion you would never reach in real life. You reach a level of hysteria you would never imagine.

Q. Did you have to practice screaming?

A. I had done a horror film five or six years ago, and I got a lot of practice then. Basically reaching that level of fear and hysteria will bring you as far as you need to be, at least as far as screaming goes. You can't really fake it.

Q. Are you a fan of scary movies?

A. Yes, but I get scared so easily! I love "The Shining,"

"Silence of the Lambs." I remember my father took me to see "Pitch Black," and I had nightmares from that movie for years and years.

Q. So after starring in a movie like "Texas Chainsaw 3D," you're still afraid to watch scary movies?

A. Yes! When I watched the original movie I would watch it, then put it on pause and take a breather. ... With this film, I know what's happening, and I'm in it, but when we saw it we were screaming and laughing. We were scared by it! That was sort of cool. The way it's edited and the way it's put together, with the CGI, it's a different kind of scary from the fear you have while filming.

Kobe Bryant: I'm on Twitter now

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kobe Bryant is no longer a holdout. He's on Twitter.

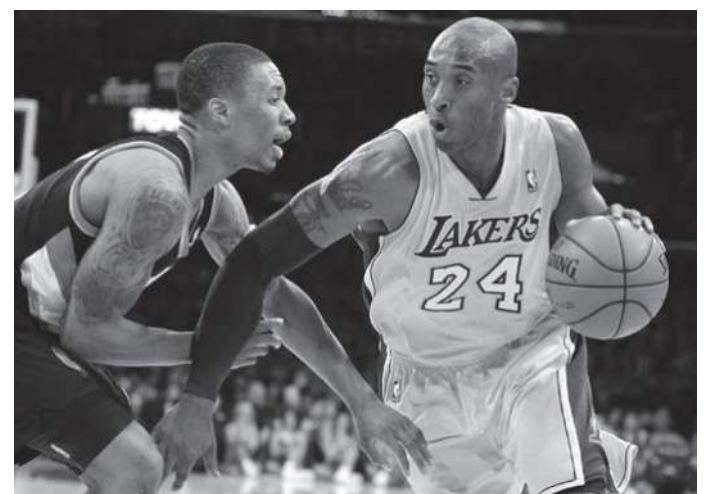
With five words—"The antisocial has become social"—the Los Angeles Lakers guard sent the first tweet from his account Friday. About 250,000 people followed his verified account, (@kobebryant, within a few hours and he was up to 365,000 late Friday night as the Lakers played the Los Angeles Clippers.

Bryant tiptoed into the Twitterverse last week when he

briefly took over Nike basketball's account, when he sent out things like a photo of him hanging out with his daughter, an ice bath that he was dreading and even a suit he was wearing to a particular game.

Bryant says those few days made him consider starting his own account, saying he enjoyed connecting with fans "with no filters."

Heat star LeBron James has 6.8 million followers, the most of any National Basketball Association player.



Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant (24) drives against Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard, left, during the second quarter of an NBA basketball game, Friday, Dec. 28, 2012, in Los Angeles. AP

R&B singer Frank Ocean cited for pot possession

BRIDGEPORT, California (AP)—Grammy-nominated R&B singer Frank Ocean has temporarily lost his driver's license and faces a marijuana possession charge after police say he was pulled over twice on the final days of the year in California's Eastern Sierra Nevada for driving more than 90 mph (145 kph) in 65 mph zones.

The Mono County Sheriff's

Department said officers first stopped Ocean's black BMW on Dec. 30 as he was heading northbound on U.S. 395 near Keoughs, and cited him for speeding.

Ocean was pulled over again on New Year's Eve at about 4:30 p.m. as he was heading southbound on U.S. 395 at about the same speed.

The second time, sheriff's spokeswoman Jennifer Hansen

said a strong odor of marijuana wafted out as a deputy approached the vehicle.

Hansen said the deputy found a small bag of marijuana on the 25-year-old Ocean, whose legal name is Christopher Edwin Breaux, and cited him for marijuana possession.

California Highway Patrol Sgt. Andrew Thompson said an officer also gave the Beverly Hills

resident a verbal warning about his speed and cited Ocean for driving with a suspended driver's license and having tinted front windows. Ocean's license was confiscated and a passenger who was traveling with the popular crooner was allowed to drive the vehicle away, Thompson said.

Ocean's representative Heathcliff Berru declined comment on Thursday.

Depardieu flies to Russia, may receive passport

MOSCOW (AP)—Russian President Vladimir Putin's spokesman says French actor Gerard Depardieu has flown to Sochi, where he is likely to meet with Putin and receive a Russian passport.

Putin on Thursday approved the actor's application for Russian citizenship, causing a scandal in France, where Depardieu has been fighting



a proposed 75 percent income tax on the superrich.

Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov was quoted by the state RIA Novosti news agency as saying Depardieu arrived Saturday in Sochi, the host city of the 2014 Winter Olympics, and could meet with Putin on Saturday evening.

Peskov said "it cannot be excluded that during the meeting Depardieu could receive a passport."

In this Saturday, Dec. 11, 2010 file photo Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, right, and French actor Gerard Depardieu talk during their visit to the Russian Museum in St. Petersburg, Russia.

AP

France's Bardot threatens exile over elephants

PARIS (AP)—Sex symbol-turned-animal rights activist Brigitte Bardot is threatening to join actor Gerard Depardieu in Russian exile unless France halts the scheduled euthanasia of two sick circus elephants.

The 1960s screen diva says authorities have ignored her "numerous proposals" to save Baby and Nepal, a pair of 42-year-old elephants dying of tuberculosis at a Lyon zoo.

In a statement on her foundation's website Bardot says that if the elephants are killed she will request Russian citizenship "to flee this country that is now just a graveyard for animals."

This week France was shocked to learn Depardieu, an Academy Award-winner and pillar of French cinema, had received Russian citizenship after he was called "pathetic" by France's prime minister in a bust-up over the country's proposed 75 percent income tax for the superrich.

'Star Wars' creator George Lucas engaged

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Star Wars" creator George Lucas is engaged.

A spokeswoman for Lucasfilm Ltd. says the 68-year-old director is engaged to 43-year-old investment firm president Melody Hobson. No other details were provided.

Hobson serves as chairman of DreamWorks Animation and is a financial contributor to ABC's "Good Morning America."

Lucas helped to launch the modern blockbuster age with his "Star Wars" sagas and "Indiana Jones" adventures. The original "Star Wars" still stands as the No. 2 film in terms of tickets sold domestically, behind only "Gone with the Wind."

Lucas has three children: Amanda, Katie and Jett. He was previously married to film editor Marcia Lucas from



In this May 14, 2010 photo, filmmaker George Lucas, right, and Melody Hobson arrive for the screening of "Wall Street Money Never Sleeps", at the 63rd international film festival, in Cannes, southern France.

1969 to 1983.

Disney completed its acquisition of Lucasfilm and the "Star

Wars" franchise from Lucas for \$4.06 billion in cash and stock last month.

Benefits payments go digital to save money, improve safety

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: Please help me spread an important message to people who receive Social Security or other federal benefits each month via one of the estimated 5.4 million paper checks each month. Starting March 1, 2013, the Treasury Department is requiring all Social Security, VA, SSI and other federal beneficiaries receive their benefits by ELECTRONIC PAYMENT. Senior citizens and other federal beneficiaries may choose either direct deposit or the Treasury-recommended Direct Express Debit MasterCard.

This new payment method is NOT optional. It is the law. Besides saving taxpayers money, switching to electronic payments provides a safer, more convenient and cost-effective way for people to get their federal benefits than paper checks.

Individuals who need assistance in switching to electronic payment can call the Treasury's secure Go Direct Call Center at 800-333-1795. Our agents are specially trained to answer questions and complete the switch-over process in less than 10 minutes.

We urge people not to wait until the last minute to make this important change. Thank you for your help, Abby.

WALT HENDERSON, GO DIRECT
CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR

DEAR MR. HENDERSON: You have come to the right place. Dear Abby readers are the most caring and generous people in the world, and I know they will be glad to help us spread the word.

Readers, if you or people you care about will be affected by this massive change in the way benefits are being distributed, please clip or copy this column and be sure those people are informed. And when you do, tell them that when they make the call, they must have either their most recent benefit check on hand, or know their 12-digit federal benefit check number. To arrange for direct deposit, they will also need to know their bank's or credit union's routing transit number and their account number.

DEAR ABBY: My husband passed away a year ago. Four days after his funeral I received my copy of the church pictorial directory. My husband and I had posed together for our picture. Abby, they used the same photo with his image cropped out.

I don't have words to describe how shocked and hurt I felt when I saw it. While I am healing well, knowing that my husband is happy in heaven, that cropped photo still hurts. It is also being displayed on a bulletin board with members' pictures, along with two new widows' cropped photos.

Am I being overly sensitive? I'm certain nobody meant any harm. Still, I can't imagine anyone would have done this to a family photo if a child had died. Should I address the problem? I'd love to know what other widows and widowers think about this.

SLASHED APART IN FLORIDA

DEAR SLASHED APART: Handle this by telling whoever is in charge of that pictorial directory, and the bulletin board, how you felt when you saw the photo. Then tell the person—and if necessary the clergyman—that you would like a replacement photograph taken and displayed. I am 100 percent sure the other widows will appreciate it because what happened was extremely insensitive.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

James Bond's 50th anniversary celebrated at Oscars

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Oscar won't be the only chiseled man in the spotlight at the 85th Academy Awards.

Producers say the show will feature a celebration of Bond, James Bond. Craig Zadan and Neil Meron announced Friday that the film awards show will pay tribute to the 50th anniversary of the James Bond film franchise. They call it "the longest-running motion picture franchise in history and a beloved global phenomenon." The most recent Bond film, "Skyfall," was released in No-

vember and has made more than \$1 billion worldwide. That's a franchise record. Nominations for this year's Academy Awards will be announced Jan. 10. The Oscars will be presented Feb. 24 in Los Angeles.

Boyz II Men to begin new Vegas show at Mirage

LAS VEGAS (AP)—The R&B group Boyz II Men is headed to Las Vegas. The 1990s slow-jammers announced a headlining residency Thursday. They will perform weekend shows at the Terry Fator Theatre at The Mirage starting March 1. Organiz-

ers say the show will feature the band's biggest hits, including the 1991 smash "Motownphilly," as well as some surprises. Boyz II Men has won four Grammys and claims the title of most successful male R&B group in history. The trio is best known for its ballads and a cappella stylings, and for the slow jams "I'll Make Love To You" and "One Sweet Day." They will perform 78 weekend shows through the end of the year. Tickets are on sale now starting at \$40.

Wahlberg: I'm not making a Boston 'COPS'

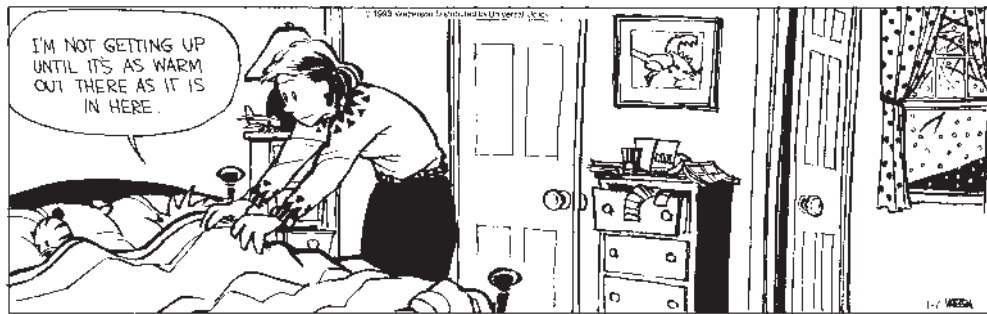
PASADENA, California (AP)—Donnie Wahlberg says

he doesn't think he'd be allowed back in his hometown if he made a Boston version of "COPS." The actor is producing a nonfiction show, "Boston's Finest," that premieres next month on TNT. It follows members of the Boston police department on patrol. He says other television producers are scouting Boston to do versions of "Jersey Shore" with drunk people who "shout clam chow-dah." Wahlberg says that might be something fun to watch, but it wasn't the kind of show he wants to make. The "Blue Bloods" actor says there are people he grew up with who are doing heroic work that he wants to spotlight.

Pastimes

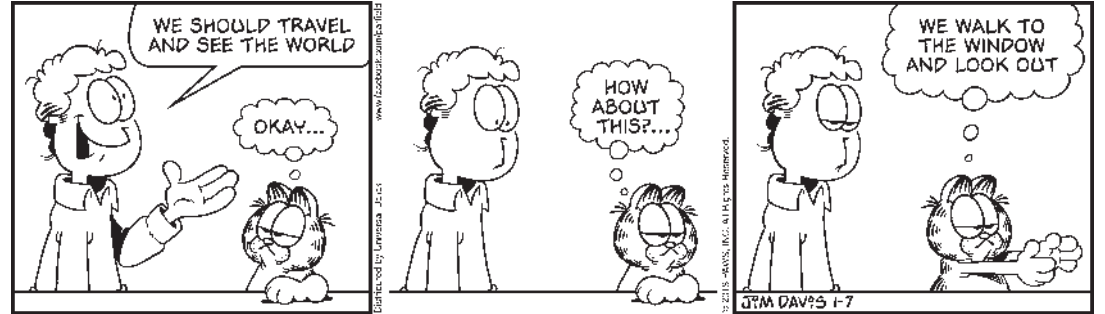
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 See wrong
12- Across wreck
5 Scoundrel aid
8 Mine entrance
12 With 1-Across, have trouble
13 Bullring cheer
14 Pianist Peter
15 Fermi's bit
16 Time on Earth
18 Summer-house
20 Deviating off course
21 Albacore, e.g.
23 — Aviv
24 Help on "Millionaire"
28 Pealed
31 Commotion
32 Nuptial announcement
34 Dead heat

DOWN

35 Legal
37 Shipwreck
39 Bill and —
41 Sea eagle
42 Cover the cost up front
45 Adjective modifier
49 Organism
51 Concept
52 Finished
53 Regret
54 Whirlpool
55 Marries
56 Conclude
57 Back talk

2 Silents actress
3 The gamut
4 Reproductive cell
5 House style
6 Boxer Muhammad
7 Challenge
8 Reply
9 Remove hair
10 Persia, now
11 Chinatown gang
17 Dine
19 Closed-style up tulip
22 Sandy's mistress
24 Long, crosser
25 "What can — for you?"
26 Made to consume
27 Put in a border, as a photo
29 Zero
30 Obtain
33 Remit
36 Drunkards
38 Groups of quail
40 Lum-mox
42 Winter truck attachment
43 Split
44 Bygone times
46 Icelandic epic
47 Cincinnati team
48 Chesapeake et al.
50 Scoot

Solution time: 27 mins.

Friday's answer 1-4

T	A	U	I	C	B	M	C	H	A	D
A	S	S	P	A	R	A	H	U	G	O
G	A	S	P	E	D	A	L	A	G	O
S	P	R	U	C	E	I	D	O		
			P	A	T		G	A	S	J
M	I	M	I	C	A	N	Y	E	T	A
I	D	O	L	E	L	S	T	E	N	T
N	E	W	O	N	E		A	U	R	A
G	A	S	B	A	G	B	I	T		
			I	R	A		A	S	S	E
A	B	E	D		G	A	S	L	I	G
L	O	A	D		E	L	S	E	A	R
A	W	R	Y		D	I	O	S		D

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jeremy Renner, 42; Nicolas Cage, 49; Katie Couric, 56; David Caruso, 57.

Happy Birthday: Step into the spotlight and share your discoveries, findings and talents with your peers, clients and supporters. Stick to your game plan and avoid inconsistency and you will reach a level of success that can make your life easier and more satisfying. Pressure should not be used or be necessary. Follow your instincts and use your skills wisely. Your numbers are 9, 15, 24, 27, 31, 33, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Idle time will lead to conflict. You are best to make personal changes that will build your confidence or help you redirect your skills in order to reach a better position professionally, educationally or geographically. A contract can change your life. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Interviews, meetings and partnerships are all highlighted. Listen carefully and respond mindfully. There is no room for anger in your negotiations. Instead, realistic counters with a compromising attitude will get you what you want. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Gear up and accomplish. Changing your mind or showing inconsistency will cause someone to lose faith in you. Stick to what you say you will do and follow through with promises made. Your reputation will depend on your actions. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Trust in your ideas and develop creative concepts. Engaging in entertainment of an unusual nature will bring you in contact with

someone you find inspiring. A romantic connection will give you something to look forward to and an unexpected opportunity. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Embrace change if it will result in being able to take care of personal responsibilities. Apply techniques you've used in the past to accomplish what's being asked of you now. Don't let emotional situations interfere with your progress. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will motivate others and attract the help you need to complete a project. Networking will present opportunities, but before you get too excited, draw up a contract or get what's being offered in writing. Your disciplined, responsible attitude will help you excel. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Rely on the past and remembering what really happened to get you through some discrepancies you face in your personal relationships. Avoid interaction that may put you in a vulnerable position. Keep active and pursue positive opportunities. Travel for knowledge, pleasure or business. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Talks will be informative as long as you are willing to share, compare and listen to good advice. There is no room for anger if you want to excel. Focus on making the changes discussed without complaining, and positive results will follow. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Start this week off on the right foot. Make the personal changes you've been thinking about and try to expand your talents, skills or opportunities at home and at work. Romance is strongly suggested. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take the road less traveled and you will find a way to improve your performance and your chance to excel. Share your experiences with people you want to do business with and you will win a place that is favored and improve your status. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Concentrate on what's essential in order to reach your long-term goals. Avoid fraternizing with anyone you feel may be a poor influence on you or your loved ones. Make an effort to go over the pros and cons in your life and past mistakes. **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Control whatever situation you face by being upfront regarding your intentions, and progressive when it's time to follow through. An interesting change in your personal life will affect your reputation, but in the end you'll be the one looked up to. *****

Birthday Baby: You are relentless, strong-willed and confident. You strive for perfection. Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

		8		7				5		
	5				9				4	
7			3			6				
		7	8	3				4		
4			1	9	5				2	
	3			4	2	5				
		3			4				6	
9			2					8		
	4			8		3				

Difficulty Level ★

1/07

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

2	3	8	4	7	1	6	9	5
5	7	1	8	9	6	3	4	2
4	6	9	3	2	5	8	1	7
8	2	6	9	1	4	7	5	3
9	1	5	7	3	8	2	6	4
3	4	7	6	5	2	1	8	9
6	9	2	5	8	7	4	3	1
7	8	3	1	4	9	5	2	6
1	5	4	2	6	3	9	7	8

Difficulty Level ****

1/08

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

HAWAIIAN KONA COFFEE

Solution: 8 letters

S	H	L	E	T	S	A	T	I	U	R	F	C	H	P
E	A	E	A	D	E	N	S	I	T	Y	L	E	T	H
A	N	M	E	C	R	O	P	S	S	O	G	A	W	U
S	D	A	U	F	I	K	M	A	U	N	A	L	O	A
O	P	R	R	E	F	P	B	D	I	E	A	N	R	L
N	I	A	A	A	L	O	Y	K	T	R	E	G	A	
W	C	C	R	I	B	R	C	T	P	R	P	B	L	
O	K	M	V	A	N	I	U	E	S	U	R	I	Y	A
R	E	A	C	A	P	F	C	G	P	A	L	R	R	I
G	D	R	Y	I	N	G	A	A	G	O	O	P	R	I
E	E	C	R	O	S	K	C	I	P	L	L	L	R	E
S	I	H	R	E	W	O	L	F	L	O	E	S	H	R
N	R	A	C	I	N	A	C	L	O	V	H	S	C	E
E	D	D	N	A	L	S	I	A	A	L	L	A	M	S
D	E	R	E	T	L	I	F	T	I	I	A	W	A	H

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1/7

Acres, Aloha, Arabica, Beans, Caramel, Cherry, Cloud, Coffee, Crops, Dark, Dense, Density, Dried, Drying, Farm, Filtered, Flat, Flower, Fresh, Fruit, Grown, Growth, Handpicked, Hawaii, Hualalai, Island, Kona, March, Mauna Loa, Picking, Picks, Pulper, Pure, Rainfall, Ripen, Roast, Samuel Ruggles, Season, Slope, Small, Taste, Tree, Typical, Vanilla, Volcanic.

Last Saturday's Answer: Spanish Socks

For the COLLECTED WONDERWORD, which is 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100, 105, 110, 115, 120, 125, 130, 135, 140, 145, 150, 155, 160, 165, 170, 175, 180, 185, 190, 195, 200, 205, 210, 215, 220, 225, 230, 235, 240, 245, 250, 255, 260, 265, 270, 275, 280, 285, 290, 295, 300, 305, 310, 315, 320, 325, 330, 335, 340, 345, 350, 355, 360, 365, 370, 375, 380, 385, 390, 395, 400, 405, 410, 415, 420, 425, 430, 435, 440, 445, 450, 455, 460, 465, 470, 475, 480, 485, 490, 495, 500, 505, 510, 515, 520, 525, 530, 535, 540, 545, 550, 555, 560, 565, 570, 575, 580, 585, 590, 595, 600, 605, 610, 615, 620, 625, 630, 635, 640, 645, 650, 655, 660, 665, 670, 675, 680, 685, 690, 695, 700, 705, 710, 715, 720, 725, 730, 735, 740, 745, 750, 755, 760, 765, 770, 775, 780, 785, 790, 795, 800, 805, 810, 815, 820, 825, 830, 835, 840, 845, 850, 855, 860, 865, 870, 875, 880, 885, 890, 895, 900, 905, 910, 915, 920, 925, 930, 935, 940, 945, 950, 955, 960, 965, 970, 975, 980, 985, 990, 995, 1000.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

(13) Mason, (5) Carpenter, (1) Plumber, 5 years experience. Email resume to landmark@pticom.com

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Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. \$600/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. \$550. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nighttime security. \$450/mo. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 1-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. \$250/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. \$450-\$550/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ACCOUNTANT (1) – Must have a Bachelor's degree in Accounting with a minimum of 5 years work related experience, proficient in MS Word, excel, Peachtree and QuickBooks, knowledge of General Accounting and aviation industry, maintain book of accounts, knows how to prepare Financial Statements, Bank Reconciliation, Bookkeeping, Year End reports, Revenue requirements, Accounts receivables and payables, payroll, withholding tax, FICA, BGRT, excise tax and other work assigned; drop and pick up of customers, booking of charter flights, medical evacuation preparation and directly report to the President. Rate: \$5.55 to \$ 7.50/hr.

GENERAL MECHANIC (1) – Minimum of 5 years professional experience as general mechanic, repairs and maintains physical structures of the facility, repairs of vehicles, office machines and equipments, plumbing, electrical, carpentry, air condition, and all other equipments of the company. Rate: \$5.55 to \$ 7.50/hr.

Interested applicants can mail their resume at P.O. Box 7688 SVRB, Saipan, MP 96950 or may email to saipan@americopters.com. No phone calls please.

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Must have some cooking experience

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\$100 Security Deposit Required
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Some conditions may apply

Mayflower Corporation
Job Vacancy Announcement

(1) GRAPHIC ARTIST
(1) MANAGER
- Must have at least 3 years work related experience
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For Immediate Hiring

(1) Japanese Cook (With 5 years work experience)
(1) Baker Pastry (With 5 years work experience)
(1) Cashier /Waitress (knowledge of Chinese, Korean and English language preferred and with 3 years work experience)

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PASTRY CHEF

Culinary school graduate preferred, with minimum 5+ years of experience. Must have a minimum of 2 years of supervisory/management experience in a high volume, multi unit resort. Moderate computer skills, ability to work as a team, with a commitment to excellence.

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HARDT EYE CLINIC is in need of the following:

Registered Nurse/Certified Diabetes Educator (1) – Assess patient health problems and needs, develop and implement nursing care plans, and maintain medical records. Administer nursing care to ill, injured, convalescent, or disabled patients. May advise patients on health maintenance and disease prevention or provide case management. Provides individualized diabetes self-management education/training to individuals and groups according to the Scope of Practice, Standards of Practice, and Standards of Professional performance for Diabetes Educators (AADE, 2005). **Licensing or registration and certification for Diabetes Educator are required.**

Certified Optician (1) - Cut, grind, and polish eyeglasses, contact lenses, or other precision optical elements. Assemble and mount lenses into frames or process other optical elements. Includes precision lens polishers or grinders, centerer-edgers, and lens mounters. Knowledge of principles and processes for providing customer and personal services. This includes customer needs assessment, meeting quality standards for services, and evaluation of customer satisfaction. Knowledge of arithmetic, algebra, geometry, calculus, statistics, and their applications. **Certification and Advance Certification is required.**

Submit application at Hardt Eye Clinic, Inc. dba Hardt Eye Clinic; Diabetes Education Center located next to MegaByte, Chalan Laulau, Beach Road, Saipan. Salary commensurate to credentials and qualification.

Job Vacancy Announcement

(13) HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANIC - \$5.60 to \$8.00 per hour. Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 5 years experience as Heavy Equipment Mechanic. With knowledge how to diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul mobile mechanic, hydraulic, and pneumatic equipment, such as cranes, bulldozers, graders, excavators, trucks, profilers and conveyors, used in construction. Must be able to work flexible time.

(2) PAINTER - \$5.75 to \$6.00 per hour. Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 5 years experience as a Painter. With knowledge how to paint walls, equipment, buildings, bridges, and other structural surfaces, using brushes, rollers, and spray guns. May remove old paint to prepare surface prior to painting. May mix colors or oils to obtain desired color or consistency. Must be able to work flexible time.

(1) HOUSEKEEPER - \$5.55 to \$6.00 per hour. Must be a high school graduate or minimum of 5 years experience as a maid. Perform any combination of light cleaning duties to maintain private households or commercial establishments, in a clean and orderly manner. Duties may include making beds, replenishing linens, cleaning rooms and halls, and vacuuming. Must be able to work flexible time.

(4) ARCHITECTURAL AND CIVIL DRAFTER - \$6.00 to \$9.00 per hour. Must be a college graduate with minimum experience of 5 years. Must know how to prepare detailed drawings of architectural and structural features of buildings or drawings and topographical relief maps used in civil engineering projects such as highways, bridges, and public works. Use knowledge of building materials, engineering practices, and mathematics to complete drawings. Must be able to work flexible time.

(2) GENERAL MAINTENANCE - \$5.65 TO \$6.00 per hour. Must be high school graduate with minimum of 5 years experience as General Maintenance. With experience which demonstrates ability to perform carpentry, plumbing, painting, masonry, electrical wirings, grounds keeping, and standard practices and use of variety of hand and power tools used in the maintenance and repair of building facilities.

(4) AUTO BODY REPAIRER - \$5.60 to \$6.00 per hour. Must be a high school graduate with minimum 5 years experience as Auto Body Repairer. With knowledge how to repair and refinish automotive vehicle bodies and straighten vehicle frames. Must be knowledgeable on how to perform Arc and Gas welding. Must be able to work flexible time.

All positions close on January 10, 2013. Applications are available at GPCC Inc office located at As Perdido, Saipan. A copy of valid Police Clearance must be attached to the application. Incomplete application will NOT be accepted. Skills testing may be required. GPCC, INC. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

WHATZIT Solution: A pair of slippers

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Packers show off depth in win over Vikes



GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—Deep on offense and scary-good on defense, the Green Bay Packers were way too much for the Minnesota Vikings.

Maybe everyone else in the NFC, too.

Aaron Rodgers, Charles Woodson and the Packers reminded everyone of how dangerous they can be when they're at full strength Saturday night, overwhelming the Vikings 24-10 in an NFC wild-card game that was never really close.

"Our defense played great," Rodgers said. "Our defense tonight played at a championship level and that's what you need in the playoffs."

John Kuhn scored two touchdowns, DuJuan Harris added another and Rodgers connected with an NFL playoff-record 10 receivers as he threw for 274 yards in his first playoff victory at home. Defensively, the Packers (12-5) finally managed to contain Adrian Peterson and were all over Vikings backup Joe Webb, pressed into service because of Christian Ponder's triceps injury.

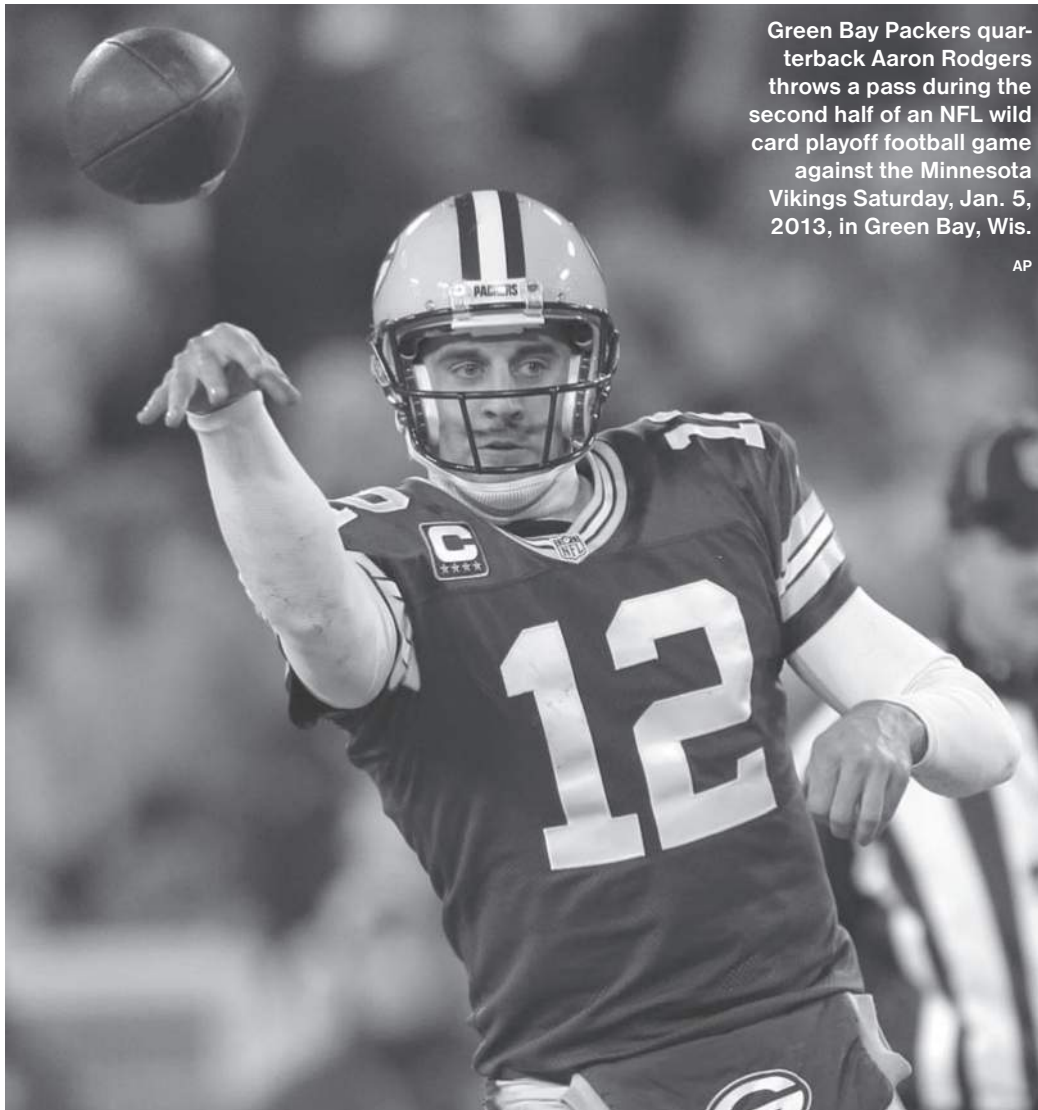
Peterson was held to 99 yards—an improvement after gaining 199 and 210 in the first two games against Green Bay. It was only the second time in the last 11 games that he was held below 100 yards. Webb, who hadn't thrown a pass all season, was sacked three times and off target all night. His only highlight was a 50-yard scoring pass to Michael Jenkins late in the fourth quarter, but it was far too late for the Vikings (10-7).

"No disrespect to Ponder, but ... it's about one guy and that's Adrian Peterson," said Woodson, who played his first game since breaking his right collarbone Oct. 21. "Our main focus, whether it was Ponder or Webb, was to keep 28 (Peterson) from getting off. And if we were going to keep him from getting off, put the ball in the quarterback's hands, whatever quarterback it was, we felt good about what was going to happen."

With a little over a minute left, Packers fans began taunting the Vikings (10-7) with chants of "Nah-nah-nah-nah ... goodbye." The win snapped a two-game losing streak at Lambeau Field in the playoffs, and sent the Packers to San Francisco next Saturday for an NFC divisional game with the 49ers. The teams met in the season opener, with San Francisco winning 30-22.

"A lot has happened since we played San Francisco," Packers coach Mike McCarthy said. "We're a different team."

This was the third game in six weeks between Green Bay and the Vikings, and second in six days. The Packers' loss in Minnesota last weekend cost them the No. 2 seed in the NFC, along with a bye this weekend, and left them looking—dare we say it?—vulnerable going into



Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers throws a pass during the second half of an NFL wild card playoff football game against the Minnesota Vikings Saturday, Jan. 5, 2013, in Green Bay, Wis.

AP

the playoffs. But with Woodson back and Rodgers having all four of his top receivers for, essentially, the first time since Sept. 30, Green Bay looked like a team that could make the kind of deep run it did two years ago when it won the Super Bowl.

Rodgers used so many different options other NFL quarterbacks must have been drooling. He went with Harris on Green Bay's first scoring drive, mixed it up between James Jones, Tom Crabtree and Greg Jennings on the second, and had 22 and 23-yard completions to Jordy Nelson before Kuhn scored on a 3-yard run that put the Packers up 17-3 just before the half.

And pretty much everyone got in on the fun on the last score, a 12-play, 80-yard drive that chewed up more than 5 1/2 minutes. Rodgers connected with Jones on a 19-yard completion to put the Packers in Packers territory, then connected with Harris for 14 yards two plays later to reach the red zone. Rodgers threw incompletes on second and third downs, but just when the Packers thought they'd have to settle for a field goal, the Vikings were whistled for 12 men on the field, giving Rodgers another crack at the end zone.

He found Kuhn for the 9-yard score, and the game was all but over.

"That was tough. We were down seven and they went and scored and they were coming out of the half, too, getting the ball, too, and they got it and scored again," Antoine Winfield said. "Can't do that against the Green Bay Packers."

Harris, who didn't play in the

first game against Minnesota this season because he'd only been elevated from the practice squad a day earlier, led the team in receiving (five catches for 61 yards) and rushing (47 yards on 17 carries). Jennings and Jones had four catches each and Nelson had three before hobbling off late in the fourth quarter.

"We have some stuff to work on," Rodgers said. "We've got

to help our defense out more, close a team out like that. Tough test next week back in San Francisco."

Hey, at least the Packers are still playing. That's more than the Vikings can say.

Ponder was hurt last weekend when Morgan Burnett slammed into him on a blitz. Though initially thought to be an elbow injury, Ponder said it was actually

a deep bruise in his right triceps. It limited his flexibility along with his power and, though it is better, there simply wasn't enough time to recover with the short, six-day turnaround.

After testing the arm before the game, the Vikings decided to go with Webb, whose only playing time this year was a couple of handoffs at the end of a blowout of Tennessee in early October.

"I can play with pain. The biggest thing is the loss of flexibility," Ponder said. "I couldn't get the ball in the position to where I could throw it normally and lost a lot of power and everything. It wouldn't have been wise to play."

It was the first time Buffalo's Frank Reich in 1993 a quarterback had started a playoff game after not starting during the regular season, according to STATS Inc. And, in the first series at least, he seemed to have caught the Packers off guard. That or they were too busy trying to bottle up Peterson, who bulldozed them for 409 yards in their first two games, to pay attention.

With what seemed like every Packers defender focused on Peterson, Webb converted a third-and-3 with a 17-yard pickup. His 5-yard run four plays later put the Vikings at the Green Bay 13. But Webb's first pass of the night went into the ground, and the Vikings were forced to settle for Blair Walsh's 33-yard field goal that gave them a 3-0 lead.

But the Packers quickly settled down and Webb and the Vikings never stood a chance. Especially with Peterson not al-

lowed to roam free as he's done against the Packers in the past.

"The energy level was at an all-time high," Woodson said. "This week, like last week, we buzzed around. But this week we made the tackles, we didn't allow (Peterson) to get through the line of scrimmage and get yards after first contact. We just kept putting heat on them. That was the difference."

Texans 19, Bengals 13

In Houston, the Texans' Arian Foster ran for 140 yards and a touchdown, and the Texans used a stifling defensive effort for a 19-13 win over the Cincinnati Bengals on Saturday in an AFC wild-card playoff game.

The Texans will next play at New England on Jan. 13.

Foster became the first player in NFL history to have 100-yard games in each of his first three playoff games.

The Texans (13-4) had trouble finishing drives all day and mustered only three field goals in the first half. Houston struck first after the break, with Foster scoring the game's only offensive touchdown on a 1-yard run in the third quarter to make it 16-7.

In his first playoff start, Houston quarterback Matt Schaub had an interception returned for a touchdown by Leon Hall before halftime.

Johnathan Joseph had an interception and J.J. Watt had a sack as the Texans beat the Bengals (10-7) in the wild-card round for the second straight year. Cincinnati hasn't won a playoff game since 1991, the league's longest current streak.

Browns, Eagles vying for Oregon's Kelly

CLEVELAND (AP)—The Browns figured they could close a deal with Chip Kelly over dinner.

That was before the Eagles took Oregon's coach to a lengthy lunch.

Cleveland owner Jimmy Haslam and CEO Joe Banner spent much of Saturday waiting for a second meeting with Kelly, the Ducks' offensive mastermind, to hopefully finalize an agreement to make him the Browns' sixth full-time coach since 1999.

However, Kelly decided to keep a scheduled interview with Philadelphia that lasted longer than expected and carried into the night, delaying the Browns' second chance at signing college football's hot-test coach.

Kelly and his representatives had met Haslam and Banner for a reported seven hours in Arizona on Friday. They came close to reaching a deal, but the sides parted company without a financial agreement with signs pointing toward Kelly leaning toward joining the Browns.

Kelly also met with the Buffalo Bills on Friday, and he decided to keep his appointment with the Eagles, who had briefly pulled their interest in pursuing the 49-year-old after they learned a deal between Kelly and Cleveland was near. It's possible Kelly and his agent, David Dunn, are meeting with the other teams to gain leverage with the Browns and sweeten the coach's contract.

But there's also a chance Eagles owner Jeffrey Lurie and general manager Howie Roseman are making a hard push at Kelly to steal him away from the Browns.

Banner spent 19 seasons with Philadelphia, the past 12 as president, but left the club last year and has had a falling out with Lurie, a longtime friend.

Kelly nearly jumped to the pros last year with Tampa Bay but decided at the last minute to return to Oregon, where he has been coach since 2009.

As of 1 a.m. on Sunday, it was still unclear where Kelly wound wind up—Cleveland, Philadelphia or back at Oregon.

NFL.com reported that the Browns met with Syracuse's Doug Marrone for a second time on Saturday as the Eagles talked to Kelly. The report said the Browns are trying to decide if they prefer Kelly or Marrone.

It's still possible the Browns will get Kelly, but it may have been harder than they thought it would be 24 hours ago.

Haslam and Banner plan to hire a coach before they seek a general manager to pair with him. The Browns have also promised that their next coach will have final say and control over the club's 53-man roster, perks that will likely limit their talent pool when looking for a GM or pro personnel director.

Kelly went 46-7 in four years at Oregon, where his high-tempo, warp-speed offense averaged nearly 50 points per game this season. He has no pro coaching experience, but some of his offensive principles are being used by New England and Washington.

Patriots coach Bill Belichick met with Kelly in the offseason and has adopted a few of the

Ducks' offensive wrinkles into his schemes this season.

Following Oregon's win over Kansas State in Thursday night's Fiesta Bowl, Kelly said he hoped to have the interview process "wrapped up quickly and figure out where I'm going to be."

All indications are that he's headed to Cleveland, where he'll inherit a young roster that showed some promise this season.

Haslam and Banner have been in Arizona all week. They camped out there early to get first crack at Kelly and conducted at least four other known interviews before meeting with him.

Cleveland has also spoken with former Arizona coach Ken Whisenhunt, Cardinals defensive coordinator Ray Horton, Marrone and Penn State's Bill O'Brien, who removed himself from consideration Thursday and said he would return for his second season with the Nittany Lions.

Marrone could be a solid fallback candidate for the Browns if Kelly rejects them.

Clippers get club-record 12th straight home win

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Chris Paul had 27 points and nine assists, Blake Griffin added 20 points and the Los Angeles Clippers set a franchise record with their 12th straight home victory, 115-89 over the Golden State Warriors on Saturday night.

The Clippers lead the NBA with a 27-8 record, a half-game ahead of Western Conference rivals Oklahoma City and San Antonio. The Clippers won a club-record 17 straight overall before back-to-back road losses at Denver and Golden State, then beat the Lakers 107-102 on Friday. Their previous best home winning streak was set in 1978-79, their first season in San Diego after the franchise left Buffalo.

DeAndre Jordan added 13 points and eight rebounds for the Clips, who built a 23-point lead through the first quarter and won for the 19th time in 21 games overall.

Coach Vinny Del Negro pulled Griffin and Paul after they built a 96-60 lead with 2:40 left in the third quarter.

Klay Thompson had a team-high 14 points for the Warriors (22-11), who had won 12 of 15 and were trying to match the second-best start in team history behind the 1975-76 squad that won 25 of its first 33. They were 23-10 in 1955-56 and in 1991-92.

Playing their fourth game in five nights, the Clippers busted out of the gate with a 22-6 run while Golden State missed 15 of its first 18 shots. Curry and Lee, the only Warriors averaging 20 or more points, both were 0 for 4 during that stretch.

Matt Barnes stripped the ball from rookie Draymond Green under the basket and hustled the length of the floor to tip in Willie Green's missed layup just before the first-quarter buzzer, giving Los Angeles a 35-12 cushion. It was the lowest-scoring opening period for the Warriors.

The Clippers extended the margin to 67-43 at halftime, shooting 61.4 percent from the field and outrebounding the Warriors 24-12. Eric Bledsoe provided the exclamation point at the end of the second quarter when he blocked a driving layup by Jarrett Jack just before the buzzer. The 6-foot-1 point guard has 24 blocked shots in the team's first 35 games and 63 in 156 regular-season games contests.

Shooting guard Jamal Crawford, who leads the Clippers' reserves with 16.5 points per game, missed his second straight contest because of a sore left foot. The 13-year veteran, who signed as a free agent in July, tops all reserves in the league with 14 games of 20 or more points—including the 27 he scored against the Warriors in a 114-110 loss on Nov. 3, and the 24 he had against them in Wednesday's 115-94 defeat



Golden State Warriors guard Klay Thompson, center, shoots against Los Angeles Clippers center DeAndre Jordan (6) as Clippers guard Willie Green watches during the first half of their NBA basketball game, Saturday, Jan. 5, 2013, in Los Angeles. AP

at Oakland.

Knicks 114, Magic 106

In Orlando, Carmelo Anthony scored 16 of his 40 points in the fourth quarter, helping the New York Knicks top the Orlando Magic.

J.R. Smith added 18 points for New York, and Tyson Chandler had 14 points and 12 rebounds. The Knicks have won two straight overall and four in a row over the Magic, dating to last season.

Arron Afflalo and Jameer Nelson each had 29 points for the Magic, and Nik Vucevic contributed 11 points and 18 rebounds.

Orlando outrebounded New

York 45-40, but had 14 turnovers as its longest losing streak of the season reached eight games.

The Magic flipped a four-point halftime deficit into an 89-81 lead entering the fourth. The Knicks rallied using their size, going up 99-97 on a dunk by Chandler with 5:14 left.

Pacers 95, Bucks 80

In Indianapolis, Roy Hibbert had 20 points, 15 rebounds and five blocked shots to lead Indiana past Milwaukee.

Hibbert grabbed a career-high 11 offensive rebounds as the Pacers won their seventh straight home game. George Hill added 14 points after

missing Indiana's previous three games with a right thigh contusion.

The Bucks scored the first six points of the third to grab a 53-52 lead. But the Pacers responded with an 8-0 run and cruised from there.

Indiana, which lost in Boston on Friday night, hasn't lost consecutive games since falling to Denver on Dec. 7 and at Oklahoma City on Dec. 9.

Monta Ellis led the Bucks with 21 points.

Celtics 89, Hawks 81

In Atlanta, Rajon Rondo had 14 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists, and the Boston Celtics rallied to beat Atlanta.

Paul Pierce scored 17 of his 26 points in the third quarter as the Celtics erased a 19-point deficit and went on to consecutive wins for the first time since late November against Oklahoma City and Orlando.

Boston, which beat Indiana 94-75 on Friday night, had lost four straight road games.

Lou Williams scored 21 of his 28 points in the first half for Atlanta, which has lost two straight.

Nets 113, Kings 93

In New York, Brook Lopez scored 18 points in 17 minutes to lead six players in double figures, and Brooklyn got a nice effort from their reserves for its third straight victory.

One night after needing two overtimes to escape with a 115-113 victory in Washington, the Nets made sure the starters weren't too taxed. Deron Williams and Joe Johnson both scored 15 points, but neither had to play even 30 minutes.

Reserves MarShon Brooks and Andray Blatche each scored 15 points and Mirza Teletovic had a career-best 14 as the Nets scored a season-high 65 points in the first half and improved to 5-1 under interim coach P.J. Carlesimo.

DeMarcus Cousins had 28 points and 11 rebounds for the Kings, who had won four of five overall and two straight on the road but were defenseless in the finale of their four-game trip.

Rockets 112, Cavaliers 104

In Cleveland, James Harden scored 29 points, including 16 in the fourth quarter, and Houston

beat Cleveland.

Jeremy Lin added 20 points for Houston, which has won 11 of its last 14.

Kyrie Irving led Cleveland with 30 points, including 11 in the final period, but the Cavaliers fell short of winning two in a row for the second time this season.

Harden, who had four points in the first half, made 6 of 17 field-goal attempts, but was 14 of 15 at the line and had a career-high seven steals. He came into the game averaging 26.3 points and has topped the 20-point mark in each of his last 16 games.

Trail Blazers 102, Timberwolves 97

In Minneapolis, Nicolas Batum and Wesley Matthews each made five 3s and scored 26 points to lead Portland past injury-depleted Minnesota.

The Trail Blazers made a season-high 16 3-pointers and withstood a fourth-quarter rally by the Timberwolves to win for the 10th time in 13 games and finish their four-game road trip with a 3-1 record.

Nikola Pekovic led the Timberwolves with 21 points but left the game in the third quarter because of a left hip strain. Only hours earlier, Minnesota learned it lost star forward Kevin Love to a broken right hand for the second time this season when an MRI confirmed the injury.

The banged-up Timberwolves—who dressed only 10 players—also played without point guard Ricky Rubio, who sat out with back spasms.

Damian Lillard had 20 points for the Blazers.

PGA Tour's season opener delayed again

KAPALUA, Hawaii (AP)—For those who think the PGA Tour season never ends, here's a new twist: This one can't get started.

The season-opening Tournament of Champions was postponed for the second straight day because of gusts that topped 40 mph and made it impossible to play golf. Unlike the previous day when 24 players managed to tee off, no one hit a shot Saturday on the Plantation Course at Kapalua.

"We tried as best we could," said Slugger White, the tour's vice president of rules and competition. Play was delayed three times before it was called for the day.

The season now starts Sunday—that's when most tournaments end—with hopes of playing 36 holes, followed by an 18-hole finish Monday.

It will be the first time the Tournament of Champions is reduced to 54 holes since 1997, when Tiger Woods hit a 7-iron to a foot to beat Tom Lehman in a playoff when a par 3 at La Costa was the only hole that

could be used because of so much rain.

Players arrived in darkness and never got farther than the practice range. The wind has been relentless for two days, and it was clear early on there would be trouble. The back nine of the Plantation Course is higher up the mountain and more exposed. White and the rules officials found that golf balls kept moving on the 10th, 11th and 13th holes.

"On the 10th hole, we dropped a ball on the back of the green and it rolled 20 yards off the front," White said.

He said the wind caused another ball to roll uphill.

The forecast is slightly better for Sunday and Monday, with strong wind in the morning gradually abating through the day. Even so, the Plantation Course is a long walk with severe changes in elevation, which figures to be brutal on the caddies. White said they were considering offering more shuttle rides on portions of the course to help.

"It's just a little too windy out there for us to play," Brandt

Snedeker said. "If the course wasn't so exposed, it wouldn't be a problem. But you have a lot of greens exposed to 40 mph wind gusts. It's tough to make that call. They did the right thing. We had to try to play today if we wanted to try to get 72 holes in."

The PGA Tour has weather guidelines with an emphasis to play 72 holes, even going a fifth day provided the forecast allows for it.

But this is different.

The tour opted last year for a Monday finish to try to stay away from NFL playoffs, and finish before the BCS championship game. The Sony Open in Honolulu starts on Thursday, and it's no small task to get the television and other tournament equipment to another island.

If the tournament doesn't end by mid-afternoon on Monday, the Sony Open would have a limited TV operation for its opening round on Thursday. The only way the Tournament of Champions would stretch into Tuesday would be if 54 holes could not be completed. Then, there would be no televi-

sion coverage.

"It's a unique situation," said Andy Pazder, chief of operations for the tour. "It's a 16-hour barge trip, in good weather."

Pazder said the tour would not be inclined to follow its weather guidelines for a 72-hole event "because of the impact of next week's tournament." But he said the tour was not inclined to go back to a Sunday finish for Kapalua.

Meanwhile, the seven players who chose not to play in this winners-only event were feeling much better about the decision. Luke Donald, who typically takes a long break over the winter, said in a tweet to Ian Poulter, "give me a call—I'll tell you how calm and sunny it is over here on the East Coast! Haha."

Poulter's reply: "missing you."

The weather was as fickle as ever. One moment, photographers stood behind the first tee under clearing skies to capture idyllic images of the blue Pacific, filled with white caps, and a hint of orange around the puffy clouds. Five minutes later, everyone was scrambling for

cover as another rain shower moved in and cut off any view of the water.

But this isn't about the rain.

"With these gusts, the ball is basically moving on its own," Hunter Mahan said. "It doesn't make for good golf, good scores. It's not fun for anybody out there."

Mahan has hit three shots this year, and they don't even count. The scores of the 20 players who finished at least one hole Friday were wiped clean. Mahan was playing with Zach Johnson, whose first putt went 10 feet by the hole. Mahan began to settle over his putt and the wind blew it a few feet closer to hole.

"I knew we were in trouble then," he said. "I was watching on TV, and I can't believe we got on the tee box."

The forecast provided enough optimism that the first round of the year would be completed—finally—on Sunday, and as long as the wind died, there should be enough time to get in 36 holes and head for the Monday finish.

Perhaps that bodes well for Dustin Johnson. He has won the last two 54-hole events on the PGA Tour, at The Barclays in 2011 and the Pebble Beach National Pro-am in 2009.

TEAM

From Page 28

two of its last eight games and lost four straight matches to enter the single-elimination playoffs with a 3-6 record.

Swerve also went on a slump in the final round and fell from first to second place with its 5-4 record, while Team Go So Hard and Air Apparent claimed the No. 1 and 3 spots with their 6-3 and 4-5 marks, respectively.

Swerve went on to save its campaign in the holiday caging with a heart-stopping 50-49 win in the second semis game last Friday, while Team Four took the first finals berth with a 54-32 rout of the top-ranked Team Go So Hard.

PROA

From Page 28

Mobil did manage to ring in 11 free throws in the first two periods, but was running out of time if the team wanted to posture a comeback.

Proa manned down the fort rather well after the pause and maintained a comfortable 60-43 cushion heading into the fourth quarter. Pagarao and Jack Lizama fronted Proa’s third wave with a pair of baskets.

Mobil’s Jun Estolas tried to get things rolling in the second half, but the team fell too far behind by the start of the last canto and were pretty much manhandled for the majority of the match.

Proa did not let up late in the

Team Four then rode on its momentum gained from the semis victory over Team Go So Hard to post another upset the finals. Team Four, which had 1-2 record against Swerve before the playoffs, was right on the money at the opening buzzer of the winner-take-all finale, built an early double-digit lead, and never looked back.

Abrams dropped 11 points in the first period, 6 of them came from breakaway layups, as Team Four also played good defense to force errors and make way for Abrams’ uncontested shots. Team Four watched Swerve’s passing lanes and the latter went on to lose possessions on several occasions. With Team Four getting baskets off Swerve’s booboos, Abrams

minutes and ran up the score a little bit as if to send a message to the rest of the field that they are a force to be reckoned with this time around.

Lizama and Pagarao both finished with 15 points, while Mobile’s Estolas led the field with 20.

Both Blue Haus and KFC/Taco Bell, meanwhile, started slow in the second match, but the former grinded out a 13-8 lead after the opening 10 minutes.

KFC/Taco Bell closed it back to a one-possession game at the half, 25-22, and likely would’ve turned the tables on its foes if not for a pair of 3-pointers that fell true for Blue Haus in the second quarter.

Any initial doubts as to whether the old school Blue

Alipio added another 7 to her total for a team-high 15 points, but Caracut’s last stand perhaps stole the show by one-upping his rival by a basket.

Then in last Thursday’s middle feature, It Don’t Matter established a stout 29-16 margin at midpoint largely from the three-headed monster of Deleon Guerrero Diaz, Faisao, and Jason Palacios who combined for 20 points.

It Don’t Matter’s defense took it from there and prevented the Rollers from finding any rhythm, aside from a 10-point explosion by Erick Dela Rosa.

Over on the other end, It Don’t Matter’s Ben Diaz, L.J. Hemley, and Sheen Metran came off the bench and assisted Deleon Guerrero-Diaz to bring home the win. The latter led his crew with 14 points, while the bench trio bagged three buckets apiece. Rollers’ Ralph Francisco topped the boxscore with 15 points.

In Thursday’s curtain raiser, the SP Animals built a 26-18 advantage over the Blazers at intermission with a very balanced attack.

Dave Camacho led his team with 5 points, while the Blazers’ Jelen Jefferson carried his band as the only player to sink more than one shot.

The latter made an 8-point splash in the opening period,

towed her squad to an 18-6 lead.

Notably, Kaylani Lebria scored majority of Swerve’s points in the opening canto, but she too struggled offensively in the next two quarters and none of her teammates stepped up to fill the gap. Lily Williams, who was consistent with her quarterbacking job before the playoffs, was a non-factor although she scored 11 points, while Nicole Lebria also had a so-so game with her 6 markers. Karlene Reyes and Madeleine Alegre completed the scorers for Swerve, making 4 points each, but these were made when the game was already out of Swerve’s hands.

Team Four had the game in the bag as early as the second quarter went it led by 28

Haus crew could control the pace of the game disappeared in the third quarter when the veteran group barreled ahead, 45-33, heading into crunch time.

Elmer Esdrelon carried the torch in Blue Haus’ bug push with 11 points as the crew dominated the boards and did a good job forcing the smaller KFC/Taco Bell team to play half court basketball.

Blue Haus went on to rub its opponents’ noses in the dirt in the fourth quarter and flirted with a 30-point spread at the end of the game.

Brendon Talania logged 12 of his 16 points in the final stanza, just a basket shy of Esdrelon’s game-high total. John Joyner led KFC/Taco Bell with a dozen markers.

but was kept in check in the payoff period.

SP Animals continued to find the open man through the second half and brushed off a 13-point rally cry from Blazers’ Tim Taguchi and Luizi Reyes. Jefferson headed the scoring chart with a dozen, while Travis Eughbanks led SP Animals with 10.

In Thursday’s final match, the Lil’ Rollers doubled-up the Agape Torchbearers, 27-14, on the hot hands of C.J. Morales who buried two 3-pointers and matched Agape’s group effort.

The eventual victors slowed the pace in the second half and had little trouble coasting to the win. Morales led Lil’ Rollers with 18 points, while Agape’s Joe Yang scrambled for 9 on the losing end.

Games were played under two 20-minutes halves with running clock.

SATURDAY U21 division

It Don’t Matter 45 – Faisao 13, Deleon Guerrero-Diaz 10, Sacramento 6, Orejola 5, Hemley 4, Palacios 4, Diaz 2.

SP Animals 44 – Brel 10, Santy 10, Hambros 8, Lizama 6, Bahillo 5, Namelo 2, Quan 2, Camacho 1.

Scoring by Halves: 19-19, 45-44.

U13 Division

big points at the break, 40-12. Again, Abrams anchored Team Four’s offense, adding 8 more markers in the second canto. Her dominance must have inspired her teammates, as four other Team Four players lit up the scoreboard in the second canto.

The Abrams show continued in the second half and she capped her game-long brilliance with a long jumper in the final one minute of the one-sided match.

Meanwhile, Team Go So Hard saved third place in the holiday caging after beating Air Apparent in the consolation game, 42-37.

Jan Travilla, who missed their semis match, made up for her absence in the battle for third

First Game

NMC Proa/Lions Club 81 – Lizama 15, Pagarao 15, Libuw 10, Ogumoro 10, Devero 9, Demapan 8, Yabut 5, Babauta 4, Valdez 4, Lerio 1.

Mobil 59 – Estolas 20, De Guzman 10, Peredo 9, Rabauliman 9, Camacho 7, Mangali 2, Sharry 1.

Scoring by quarters: 29-13, 45-25, 60-43, 81-59.

Second Game

Blue Haus 72 – Esdrelon 18, Talania 16, Berline 8, Barbo 7, Galarse 7, David 6, Guiab 4, Muleta 4, Fernandez 2.

KFC/Taco Bell 46 – Joyner 12, Aranda 9, Bernardo 8, Palacios 6, Maranan 4, Fernando 2, Francisco 2, Abuel 2, Mangali 1.

Scoring by quarters: 13-8, 25-22, 45-33, 72-46.

Evolution 18 – Carasut 17, Factor 1.

Super Stars 18 – Alipio 15, Cruz 4, Cabacha 2.

Scoring by Halves: 6-10, 18-18.

Thursday Games U21 Division First Game

SP Animals 49 – Eughbanks 10, Camacho 8, Brel 6, Lizama 6, Bahillo 4, Hambros 4, Basa 3, Brennan 2, Quan 2.

Blazers 39 – Jefferson 12, Reyes 9, Taguchi 9, Ano 5, L. Sablan 3, S. Sablan 2.

Scoring by halves: 26-18, 49-39.

Second Game

It Don’t Matter 59 – Deleon Guerrero-Diaz 14, Faisao 8, Metran 8, Vertudez 7, Diaz 6, Hemley 6, Palacios 6, Sacramento 4.

Rollers 36 – Francisco 15, Dela Rosa 12, Capuyon 4, Ano 2, Cayading 2, Iglesias 2.

Scoring by halves: 29-16, 59-36.

Third Game

Lil’ Rollers 27 – Morales 18, Taba 8, Rios 7, W Francisco 3, Ariaga 2, Darag 2, Fidelino 2, Ocaya 2.

Agape Torchbearers 14 – Yang 9, Puno 5, Chan 2, Guo 2, B. Li 2, E. Li 2, Xi 1.

Scoring by halves: 27-14, 44-23.

place after firing 24 markers. Teresita Sablan, who was also absent in their semis loss, did not score for Team Go So Hard, but had a lot of assists and was steady at the point guard spot for her squad.

Team Go So Hard held Air Apparent to 6 points apiece in the second and third quarters to seize control of the game and protected the lead in the fourth behind Sablan’s feeds for Travilla and company.

Third place

Team Go So Hard 42 – Travilla 24, Echavez 6, Diaz 4,

CNMI

From Page 28

moa’s Anastasia Tapusoa and the Pacific Oceania duo survived Australia’s Micaela Mckimmie and Rose Taglieri in three sets of their U16 doubles tiff last Saturday morning. The visitors drew first blood, winning the opening set, 6-2, but missed the sweep when the host’s bets recovered in the second set, 6-2. The third and deciding match was a neck-and-neck battle with Lopez and Tapusoa showing poise in the end and escaping with a 7-6 (7) victory.

With the win, Lopez and Tapusoa advanced to the quarterfinals, but unfortunately they fell to the top-ranked pair of Katherine Campbell and Megan Kauffman last Sunday evening, 4-8.

Sixteen-year-old Lopez also played in the U16 singles yesterday morning and pulled off an upset over the fourth-ranked Maddison Brackenreg. The CNMI player won the opening set by three points, 6-3, and then shut out her seeded foe in the second set, 6-0, for the easy win.

Next up for Lopez is fellow Pacific Oceania bet Lorish Puluspene of Papua New Guinea.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	23	10	.697	–
Brooklyn	19	15	.559	4½
Boston	16	17	.485	7
Philadelphia	15	20	.429	9
Toronto	12	21	.364	11

Southeast Division

Miami	22	9	.710	–
Atlanta	20	12	.625	2½
Orlando	12	21	.364	11
Charlotte	8	24	.250	14½
Washington	4	27	.129	18

Central Division

Indiana	20	14	.588	–
Chicago	18	13	.581	½
Milwaukee	16	16	.500	3
Detroit	13	22	.371	7½
Cleveland	8	27	.229	12½

Olivos 4, Cristobal 2.

Air Apparent 37 – Pagarao 18, Ito 5, Padilla 4, Javier 2, Mendoza 2, Gatchalian 2.

Scoring by quarters: 9-8, 17-14, 29-20, 42-37.

Championship

Team Four 64 – Abrams 33, Sapong 10, Samson 8, Castillo 6, Ocampo 4, Vargas 2, Badilles 2.

Swerve 39 – K. Lebria 11, Williams 11, N. Lebria 8, Reyes 4, Alegre 4.

Scoring by quarters: 18-6, 40-12, 52-22, 64-39. (Saipan Tribune)

Puluspene, who is seeded sixth in the U16 draw and eliminated Japan’s Shino Kanno, 6-0, 6-1, faces Lopez today at 8am (9am Saipan time).

Ackerman and partner Charlotte Littlejohn of Australia also barged into the quarterfinals of the U14 doubles last Saturday after winning their first assignment. They dropped the opening set to fourth seed Bronte Argent and Samantha Nyika, 3-6, but grabbed the victory after sweeping the last two sets, 6-4, 7-6 (2).

Ackerman and Littlejohn were scheduled to duel Rastguiy and Palau’s Ayana Rengiil in the Round of 8 yesterday evening, but results of the match were unavailable at press time. Rastguiy and Rengiil booked a quarterfinals berth, following their 6-1, 6-1 triumph over Anina Conradie and Maddison Stark.

Rastguiy had another match yesterday, as she was set to challenge Grace Josephine Buffham in the first round of the upper half of the U14 singles draw. Ackerman was also in the top half of the U14 singles draw and was pitted against the No. 7 seed Beatrice Hetrel. Results of both matches slated for 8am were unavailable at press time. (Saipan Tribune)

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	27	9	.750	–
Memphis	20	10	.667	4
Houston	20	14	.588	6
Dallas	13	21	.382	13
New Orleans	8	25	.242	17½

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	25	7	.781	–
Portland	18	15	.545	7½
Denver	19	16	.543	7½
Minnesota	15	15	.500	9
Utah	17	18	.486	9½

Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	27	8	.771	–
Golden State	22	11	.667	4
L.A. Lakers	15	17	.469	10½
Sacramento	13	21	.382	13½
Phoenix	12	22	.353	14½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

31st NMA Christmas Island Relay



From left, Ronald Villafria, Shane Fabiana, Noni Eugenio, and Charlie Sendin of Shane and the Cool Guys near the finish line at the Last Command Post during last month's 31st NMA Christmas Island Relay.



From left, Mark Isip, Noel Altamirano, Michael and Matthew Mancao, and Fred Camacho of the Young Manamko slow down as the course turned slippery due to rain.



DFS 1 and 2 teams race together to the finish line.



Northern Marianas Athletics volunteers wait for the finishers.



Finisher Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel, center, tags teammate Banny Younis, fourth left, and runs with, from left, Amy Sletten, James Lee, and Jerry Diaz to the finish line.



Florence Antonio celebrates his first place finish in the solo division.



From left, Robert Torres, Teresa Kim-Tenorio, Lyn Tenorio, Lennosuke Suzuki, and Noah Camacho of the Guardians are a few steps away from completing the 13.7-mile race from Pacific Islands Club to the Last Command Post.



Members of the Raindeer Games smile as they near the finish line.



More Cowbells Please runners slow down as they are about to complete the race.



From left, Dark Horse's Pat Alepuyo, Jose Quan, Bum Choo, Solvi Villanueva, and Soledad Tenorio run with in their Get Fit CNMI shirts.



Packers show off depth in win over Vikes
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Saipan Tribune Sports



Clippers get club-record 12th straight home win
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28 MONDAY, JANUARY 7, 2013

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Team Four tops Kanoa holiday caging



Team Four's Rachel Abrams, center, drives strong to the basket against Swerve's Nicole Lebreria, left, and Jasmine Che during their title game in the Kanoa Resort holiday caging last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Team Four went from last placer to top finisher in the 2012 Kanoa Resort Christmas Basketball Tournament.

Team Four, which was ranked fourth and last in the play-offs, emerged as the champion of the holiday caging after



pulling off a 64-39 upset over Swerve in the winner-take-all finals last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Rachel Abrams had a monster game for Team Four, scoring 33 points to complete her squad's uprising in the four-team tournament. Team Four won its debut in the three-round robin caging, but went on to drop

See TEAM on Page 26

CNMI jr. players win opener



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Negahr Rastgui, seen going for a baseline return during the 2012 Micronesia Tennis Tournament at the Pacific Islands Club hard court in San Antonio in May, won her opening doubles match in Australia last weekend.

Three CNMI junior tennis players had winning debuts in the 2013 Australia Post Margaret Court Cup.

Mikayla Lopez, Tammy Ackerman, and Negahr Rast-

guiy all prevailed in their first round matches in the doubles event of the four-day tournament at the Albury Grasscourts in Albury, New South Wales, Australia over the weekend.

Lopez teamed up with Sa-
See CNMI on Page 26

It Don't Matter notches 2 wins in Holiday Hoops



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Super Stars' Chevy Alipio avoids a hole in the ground on a fastbreak during last Saturday's RBC Holiday Hoops Tournament U13 matchup against Evolution at the Garapan Basketball Court.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



U21 age division's It Don't Matter got a pair of victories in the Rollers Basketball Club's Holiday Hoops youth basketball tournament at the Garapan Basketball Court.

It Don't Matter defeated the Rollers, 59-36, last Thursday and snuck past the Sluwie Poppin' Animals, 45-44, on Sat-

urday after the U13 division's Evolution and the Super Stars settled for an 18-all draw in last weekend's action.

Meanwhile, other results from Thursday's U21 triple feature include the SP Animals besting the Blazers, 49-39, and the Lil' Rollers toppling the Agape Torchbearers, 44-23.

The U15 division opener was scheduled to commence as part of last night's round of games,
See IT DON'T on Page 26

Proa, Blue Haus draw first blood

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



NMC/Lions Club's Proa completed a solid 81-59 statement win over two-time defending champion Mobil-Smiles in the 3rd QQ Car Rental Basketball Cup season opener last Saturday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Proa also won best uniform honors during the opening ceremony, while Kentucky Fried Chicken/Taco Bell topped the best muse category.

Unfortunately for the latter, however the group did not near-



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

NMC Proa/Lions Club's Jack Lizama splits the defense under the basket in Saturday's 3rd QQ Car Rental Basketball Cup curtain raiser against Mobil at the Garapan Basketball Court.

ly show as well on the court and succumbed to a veteran Blue Haus band, 72-46.

The other competing teams include KB Mart and Hite who will face off in Garapan tonight at 6pm followed by the 8pm feature.

Proa broke out to a swift 29-13 lead from the tip as Mobil appeared flat and maybe a little rusty in its debut.

Lerio Pagarao and Ivan Devero shared the reins in the first quarter for Proa and tallied 7 points apiece.

Proa then stretched it out to a hefty 45-25 separation at the half as Mobil became frustrated after missing a number of close-range attempts.

See PROA on Page 26